

Bush returns from holiday to face growing pressure to make a pre-emptive military strike

Iraq rounds up hostages for 'human shield'

By JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN DUBAI AND ANDREW MCEWEN

IRAQ yesterday began rounding up Britons, Americans, French and Germans in Kuwait, while announcing that it would release citizens from several other countries.

The move heightened the risk of conflict at a time when President Bush is under pressure to make a pre-emptive military strike. He returned to Washington from holiday yesterday and met national security advisers.

Baghdad made it clear that those held would be used as a human shield to deter American, Saudi and British forces from bombing key installations. Michael Weston, the British ambassador in Kuwait, reported that 40 Britons had been taken from their hotels.

The Foreign Office advised Britons in Kuwait to stay at home, but added that they should not resist if the authorities came for them. The White House described the round-up as "totally unacceptable".

Washington and London now face the probability that up to 7,000 of their citizens would be at risk in a conflict with Iraq. Some other countries have, however, been spared. Saudi Mehdi Saleh, speaker of the National Assembly, said: "Some nations of Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland and Portugal would be allowed to leave. He described this as a 'goodwill gesture', but it was seen in London as an attempt to divide the West.

Iraq continued to try to

mend fences with Iran yesterday, and to avoid a break with Moscow. The Iranian news agency IRNA reported that about 5,000 of its 60,000 nationals resident in Kuwait crossed into Iran by car yesterday. The others may be allowed to leave soon. Tass said that the last 166 Soviet nationals in Kuwait were preparing to leave, joining

appear to have marked the start of a conflict. The tankers were thought to have continued on their journey without being attacked, but American warships continued to shadow them.

It was not clear whether the Iraqi ships were carrying oil, but this would be unusual as they appeared to be heading for Kuwait. Pentagon officials said that the vessels would be prevented from offloading any oil, prompting speculation that the US warships might disable them by damaging their rudders.

While Iraq warned of the "grave consequences" of such "acts of piracy", Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, said that he "wouldn't want to speculate on what happens next".

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hundreds of others evacuated previously.

President Saddam Hussein claimed, in a speech read on his behalf on Iraqi television, that the policy of using American, British and other civilians to deter attack was "a gain for humanity in general". He blamed the US and Britain for their plight and offered a five-point proposal. The Iraqi leader said they would be freed in return for the withdrawal of American forces or a personal declaration by President Bush that he would not use force against Iraq and that he would lift the naval blockade.

President Saddam made no offer to withdraw from Kuwait, but he said the matter should be treated as an Arab issue. Since a majority of the Arab League has opposed the invasion of Kuwait, this could be a hint of compromise.

Administration officials dismissed the statement, however, saying it failed to meet United Nations demands for an immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government.

The Iraqi leader's proposals also appeared to be too vague to soften the feeling in Washington that conflict is inevitable. Although the official American policy is to subdue Iraq through economic sanctions rather than force, the country is unmistakably on a war-footing.

The US action in firing warning shots in an attempt to deter two Iraqi tankers from entering the Gulf heightened the mood, but it does not

More ships left Norfolk, Virginia, over the weekend and there were reports of two squadrons of Harrier jump jets departing from a base in South Carolina and a second wing of F-117A "Stealth" fighter bombers setting off from Nevada. The US Air Force ordered commercial airlines to provide nearly 40 aircraft to transport troops and equipment.

Mr Cheney, in Bahrain having spent Friday and Saturday in Saudi Arabia, said there were now enough American troops in that country to make Iraq "pay the price" if it were "foolish enough" to attack. He again refused to give numbers.



Desert build-up: men of the American 82nd Airborne Division leaving the transport aircraft which had brought them to Saudi Arabia

MPs 'should be recalled'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Conservative MP today urged the government to recall Parliament to discuss the situation in the Gulf and to tell ministers not to take Westminster for granted.

The appeal by Sir Rhodes Boyson in a letter to *The Times* coincides with some disquiet among Conservative MPs about the measured way in which Margaret Thatcher and her ministers are responding to the threat to 4,500 British citizens trapped in Kuwait and Iraq and the prospect of an outbreak of hostilities in the region.

However, with the Labour frontbench content to keep events in the Gulf under review and to refrain from demanding an immediate recall of Parliament, the pressure on the prime minister is far from overwhelming.

Government sources said yesterday that in the absence of any dramatic change of circumstances in the Gulf there were no plans to bring MPs and peers back to Westminster. Mrs Thatcher met Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, over lunch yesterday in Cornwall, where she has been on holiday for the past week. The sources gave no details of the meeting and

declined to say when Mrs Thatcher would be returning to London. Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, was returning to Britain last night from his holiday in Tuscany to differences of opinion among his senior colleagues about whether the Gulf flare-up should be immediately debated at Westminster.

Mr Kinnock has been in regular contact with his office and his chief spokesman and has so far sided with the views of Roy Hattersley, his deputy, that the position has not changed sufficiently since the Iraqi invasion to justify a recall. Discounting a couple of forays by Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, and his foreign affairs team aimed at the detail of the Foreign Office's handling of the affair, Labour has maintained broad support for the government's response.

However, David Howell, Conservative chairman of the cross-party foreign affairs select committee, said: "If there is a further escalation of the crisis then it will be necessary to have parliamentary support and approval of the government's strategy."

Banks sink under a surfeit of 50p pieces

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

IS THE fifty pence piece dead? There are 50 million too many gathering dust in bank vaults and the Royal Mint has refused to take them back. The British Bankers' Association is now writing to John Major, the chancellor, to complain about the situation, which is costing its members almost £4 million a year in lost interest.

The excess of 50 pence pieces - weighing 675 tonnes - was first noticed a year ago when all the banks discovered that no matter how hard they tried to distribute the coins to customers, more were being paid back in.

The culprit is the £1 coin which, since its issue five years ago, has lessened demand for 50 pences. The Royal Mint in the past has informally agreed to redeem some coins after the

Regular offenders face tougher line

By ROBIN YOUNG AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE government will announce today that it is pressing ahead with a proposal to allow courts to take an exceptionally tough line in sentencing offenders with a history of violent and sexual crime.

It could mean that for the same relatively minor offence, habitual violent criminals are jailed for five times as long as others with little or no record of wrongdoing.

The announcement by John Patten, a Home Office minister of state, is intended as a further signal of the government's intention to draw a sharper distinction in sentencing policy between offenders provoking the gravest public disquiet and others attracting less concern.

Law-breakers judged to pose little threat to society will mainly be punished through stiffened community service orders, while long prison sentences will be generally reserved for those convicted of drug trafficking, sexual offences and crimes of violence.

Ministers hope that their policy, a rare blend of liberal

and traditional thinking on crime and punishment, which was set out in their criminal justice white paper published in February, will also help to reduce the prison population from the present 47,000.

Today's announcement by Mr Patten will give crown courts powers to pass long sentences on offenders posing a threat to public safety, even where they are convicted of relatively minor charges.

He cites as an example the case of a man with a history of serious violent crime, found guilty of a lesser offence of actual bodily harm which might ordinarily merit 12 months' imprisonment. The minister will say that the judge would in future evaluate the risk the man posed to the community and could impose a sentence of up to five years. The same would apply to a sex offender with a long record.

Mr Patten adds: "We made it clear in our white paper that an exception to the principle of the length of the sentence for an offence being justified by its seriousness could be

275 death toll in townships

The death toll in the South African townships violence rose at the weekend to at least 275 with more than 1,500 people wounded. The most seriously affected area was Soweto, near Johannesburg, where the total of known dead rose from 22 on Friday to 78 yesterday.

A group of reporters in Soweto were horrified when about 20 black youths stabbed and beat a Zulu before their eyes, then poured petrol over him and set him alight.

Walter Sisulu, an ANC veteran, indicated Nelson Mandela would not agree to widespread appeals and hold peace talks with the Zulu Inkatha leader. Mangosuthu Buthelezi... Page 7

Courts hold-up

Hundreds of court cases are being delayed by several months because high court masters - junior judges who make rulings in many civil cases - claim their workload in the Queen's bench division is too heavy... Page 5

Berlin collapse

East Germany's coalition government collapsed amid increasing calls for immediate reunification. The Social Democrats, furious over sacking of two ministers, ended the shaky alliance with the Christian Democrats... Page 18

Queensway delay

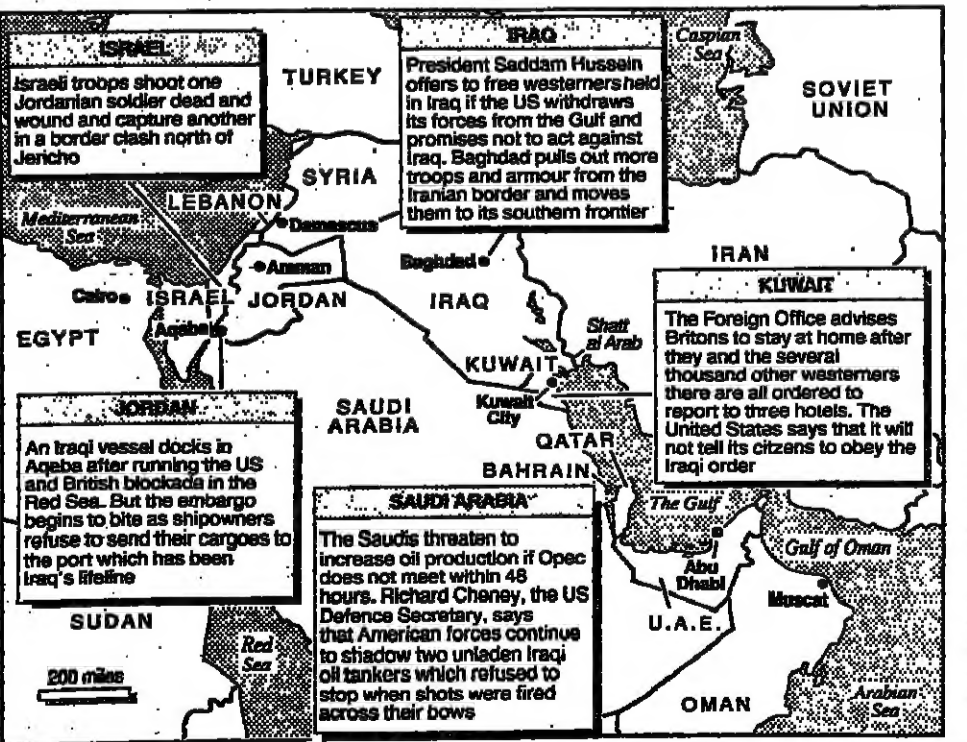
The insolvent Lowndes Queensway furniture chain will not reopen today after talks over the weekend failed to result in agreement with three suppliers... Page 19

Exam results

Degrees awarded by Exeter, Salford and Heriot-Watt universities are published today... Page 23

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Saudis to lift output of oil

By MATTHEW BOND

SAUDI Arabia says it plans to increase its oil production by about 2 million barrels a day, partly compensating for the 4 million barrels a day lost through the blockade of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil exports.

The United Arab Emirates and Venezuela have indicated that they might be willing to increase production by 500,000 barrels a day each. The increase could bring some short-term stability to oil prices and encourage world financial markets.

Saudi Arabia has called for an emergency meeting of Opec today or tomorrow but says Saudi production will be increased with or without Opec agreement.



Unloved: the 50p coin

introduction of a new one, and melted down 100 million 50 pence pieces between 1986 and 1988. Since then it has refused to accept any more even though the coin's popularity, never high, has continued to decline.

The Treasury and the Mint say the banks had plenty of time to recognise that there was a surplus. "The Mint simply does not operate on a sale or return basis. It is up to the banks to dispose of them," the Treasury said.

Faced with this impasse, bankers are coming up with increasingly wild suggestions of new uses for their unwanted coinage. Most ambitiously, there are dreams of a national marketing campaign to convince children that the tooth fairy now deals in 50 pence coins, and that they have to be kept for luck.

Lord Haw Haw is called up for a desert war

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AQABA

WITH the introduction of an Iraqi equivalent of Lord Haw Haw, the propaganda war in the Gulf is heating up. The propagandist's honeyed tones are beamed to Saudi Arabia and are aimed at undermining the moral of Americans troops based there.

"American soldiers in the Saudi Arabian desert you will be defeated," he continued. Nicknamed "Bashir of Baghdad" by some, the announcer often uses fractured English and incomprehensible phrases. "Why do you come to a land which you are not ameliorated (sic) to its people and its nature... Fighters here do not hesitate to use anything to defend their homeland."

"Remember what the oil-rich Gulf emirs have been doing with American

girls. Why do you want to defend them? The Sabah family (the deposed rulers of Kuwait) are criminals who were driven out by the Kuwaiti people," he continued, using the standard Iraqi double-talk peddled since the invasion of Kuwait.

The broadcast was monitored on a small Sony pocket radio of the sort which soldiers might be expected to use. According to Western security experts it was beamed over the transmitters of Radio Baghdad, reckoned to be among the most powerful in the Middle East.

The Iraqis are already beaming a subversive Arab-language programme to Egypt similar to that mounted after the signing of the Camp David accords with Israel and apparently designed to persuade the masses to overthrow President Mubarak and

close the Suez Canal to all Western shipping.

During a 30-minute broadcast on Saturday night the new anti-American programme concentrated on trying to persuade members of operation Desert Shield that they would be fighting in an unfamiliar and inhospitable climate against a ruthless enemy, and reminded them pointedly of the families they had left behind.

The propagandist's reference to Iraq's fighters using "anything" to defend their land was taken to refer indirectly to chemical weapons.

Iraq's propagandists have clearly been watching Western television, on which American pundits have referred to the Vietnam experience and expressed doubts about Washington's willingness to take heavy casualties. "American soldier in the Saudi Ara-

bian desert," the programme said in one of its regular two-minute jibes, "the result of American public opinion is that the Americans are not ready to die in the Gulf area. Why do you come to the burning desert?"

As the tense stalemate continues, broadcast propaganda is expected to play an important role on both sides. The Voice of America has already expanded its news coverage and put into operation techniques to counter the jamming which has been used against its Arabic service for the first time since it was launched in 1950.

Arabic radio broadcasts beamed to the Middle East by the station have been increased by more than two hours a day to a total of nine hours and 45 minutes.

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OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: THE WESTERN HOSTAGES

BAGHDAD

Saddam offers release of hostages if blockade ends

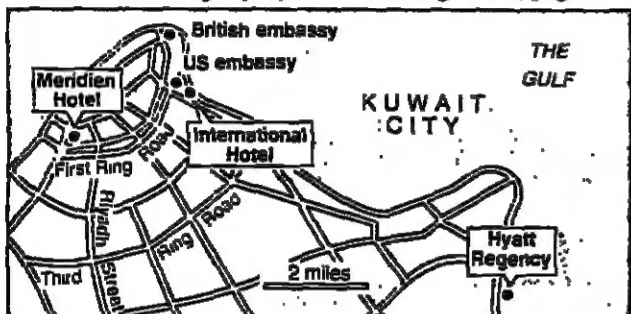
From REUTER IN NICOSIA

IRAQ offered yesterday to release thousands of foreign hostages if the United States and its allies withdrew military forces from the Gulf and lifted their economic blockade. But President Saddam Hussein did not offer to pull his troops out of Kuwait, which he seized on August 2. He said Kuwait should be treated as an "Arab issue".

Less than an hour after Saddam's initiative was read on Baghdad television, Iraq announced it would free some Westerners as a "goodwill gesture". The speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, Saadi Mehdi Saleh, said some nationals of Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland and Portugal would be allowed to leave because their countries had not sent forces to the Gulf. He did not say how many of the 570 nationals of the five countries would be allowed home. Mr Saleh, making clear Iraq was ready to trade lives for essential supplies, said more might be let out if their countries did not impose "sanctions on the import of food, medicine and other goods to Iraq."

President Saddam said preventing citizens of countries opposed to Iraq from travelling was "one means of preventing a tragedy... and opening an in-depth dialogue with those countries". Iraq said on Saturday that foreigners would be held at military and civilian installations across Kuwait and Iraq to deter any attack by Western forces massing in the Gulf. President Saddam told families of those detained: "Averting death and starvation resulting from American policy against Iraq by preventing some citizens from travelling is a gain for humanity as a whole. If these vulgar people

Leading article, page 9



The Kuwait hotels where hostages were told to report



The long road home: a convoy of private limousines carrying foreigners, mainly Egyptians, driving through the Jordanian desert after crossing the border with Iraq at Roweishid. While President Saddam is holding Western expatriates as hostages, most Arabs working in Iraq and Kuwait have been allowed to leave

WASHINGTON

Administration moves on to war footing

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA is suddenly and unmistakably on a war footing. Official policy is still to subdue Iraq by economic means as President Bush ends his fishing and golfing holiday at Kennebunkport, his retreat in Maine, but the United States is sliding inexorably towards war with Iraq.

Two US warships on Saturday fired the first shots of the Gulf confrontation across the bows of Iraqi tankers, and Baghdad said it was moving American citizens to key installations to act as human shields against an American attack.

The White House is about to announce the call-up of reservists, the first such mobilisation since the 1968 Tet offensive in Vietnam. The Pentagon has commandeered nearly 40 aircraft from 16 commercial airlines to ferry troops and equipment to Saudi Arabia, the first time it has activated the Civil Reserve Air Fleet in its 38-year existence.

In Washington the lights burn round the clock at the Pentagon as planners oversee the biggest military deployment in such a short space of time since the second world war. Across the country defence contractors who were last month contemplating a

bleak post-Cold War future are now struggling to cope with emergency orders for everything from protective clothing against chemical weapons to replacement missiles. The media is full of pictures of fearful, anxious families waving off warships carrying their husbands and fathers away towards war. As 45,000 marines prepared to leave for Saudi Arabia the wedding chapel at one of their Californian bases last week held 33 marriage ceremonies, five times the weekly average.

It has escaped few peoples' notice that the marines are primarily an amphibious assault, not a defensive force. The F117A stealth fighter-bombers being sent out have no defensive role. Computers on board the ships of the huge US naval armada have been reprogrammed to target missiles on specific Iraqi targets. As the US military presence assumes an increasingly offensive posture, all talk of a diplomatic solution has dried up in official circles and commentators are dwelling increasingly on the respective military might of the US and Iraq and what the American military options are. "If we fight this war, can we win?" The Washington Post asked in a headline yesterday. Barely a

week ago the predominant feeling was that it would take an Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia to drag American forces into full-scale hostilities. Today, war seems just around the corner.

The first thing that has changed the mood here is that the 3,000 Americans trapped in Iraq and Kuwait are now in clear and imminent danger. They are being rounded up. The Iraqis have declared their intention to use them as protection against US air attacks, and to make them all, women and children included, suffer first should economic sanctions begin to hurt.

No longer can the Bush administration play down their plight. Ordinary Americans have been tying yellow ribbons around hometown trees for days, but official spokesmen, desperate to avoid the sort of Middle East hostage problems which so damaged the Carter and Reagan administrations, have persistently declined to characterise their position, refusing even to give out their names and addresses to prevent their fate from acquiring a human face.

On Saturday night, however, for the first time officially, Thomas Pickering, the US ambassador to the

United Nations, publicly called them hostages.

Nothing is more likely to provoke American military action against Iraq than threats to American citizens. Within hours of the August 2 invasion, Mr Bush warned that if American citizens were threatened it would "affect the US in a very dramatic way, because I view a fundamental responsibility of my presidency (as being) to protect American citizens". On Saturday he was said to be deeply concerned about their worsening plight.

The second thing that has changed is the realisation that restoring the position to what it was before the invasion of Kuwait cannot be the limit of America's objectives. To force an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait but leave President Saddam Hussein in power in Baghdad would merely buy time before the next, probably nuclear-backed, Iraqi aggression. Meanwhile Iraq would be able to cow the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries into agreeing whatever oil price it demanded, and US troops would be forced to remain indefinitely in Saudi Arabia.

"You can leave Saddam in Iraq minus his million-strong army, or the army without

Saddam, but you can't leave both," one official said.

Coupled with that realisation is the clear danger to Arab unity, to international resolve and to uneasy American public opinion of a long stalemate while the United States waits for sanctions to work, and the uncertain response of President Saddam if they do.

Amid the square miles of newspaper which American weekend newspapers devoted to events in the Gulf yesterday, a chilling article by Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, crystallised what is a fast-emerging view in many quarters here: "A sharp short crisis is far more in the interest of all concerned with moderation than a long siege."

America had "crossed its Rubicon... passed the point of no return", he said, adding: "If it should be concluded that sanctions are too uncertain and diplomacy unavailing, the US will need to consider a surgical and progressive destruction of Iraq's military assets." The conduct of the Iraqis towards the Americans in their country is coming precariously close to giving Mr Bush the justification he would need for such destruction — the most unpleasant decision of his presidency.

MOSCOW

Pravda says Iraq preparing for war

From MARK DEBEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE first official Soviet response to the Iraqi threat to hold Westerners hostage at strategic sites was guarded. A foreign ministry spokesman said: "This will become another reason for concern over the further development of events in the region. We realise that the point in question is the safety of thousands of people and a possibility of action from both sides that will lead to another escalation of tension."

This accords with President Gorbachev's remarks about the Gulf confrontation on Friday when he put his weight behind a political solution to the crisis and joint action, if necessary, co-ordinated by the United Nations.

A commentary in Pravda yesterday, the more outspoken "Pravda" said, "shows that the Iraqi leaders are not prepared to retreat and are preparing for war. Moreover, the means they are using include totally inhuman, in fact, criminal means. The use of hostages is incompatible with the elementary norms of law and morality. This is a flagrant violation of the rights of those who are being forcibly held in the country, a country to which they travelled with good intentions."

So far, the Soviet Union appears to have avoided having its citizens taken hostage. The first group of 230 evacuees from Kuwait, which included oil workers and their families, arrived in Moscow on Saturday on a special Aeroflot flight from Jordan. The group had travelled from Kuwait to Baghdad and then on to the Jordanian border in buses. A second, smaller group of evacuees is expected to arrive in Moscow this evening, and Tass said the last 166 Soviet citizens in Kuwait were preparing to leave.

About 880 Soviet citizens, including military technicians, were in Kuwait when Iraq invaded on August 2. Moscow also plans to evacuate Soviet women and children from Iraq, where it has 7,830 citizens.

Organising the evacuation has taxed Soviet resources and will have been expensive. The publicity exercise seems designed to counter the impression of defeat and disorder that accompanied the Russian flight from Azerbaijan.

Soviet officials continue to deny that there are more than 200 Soviet military "specialists" in Iraq and insist that none of them has any strategic role in the Iraqi armed forces. In his speech to the military, Mr Gorbachev accused Iraq of "perfidy", noting that Soviet weapons sold for defensive purposes had been used to attack a sovereign state.

LONDON

Foreign Office tells Britons 'stay home and keep low'

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND AGENCIES

AS IRAQ began rounding up Britons in Kuwait and Iraq, the Foreign Office yesterday repeated its advice to others to "stay at home and maintain a low profile". But it said they should not resist if the Iraqi authorities came for them.

Forty Britons have been taken from their hotels to checkpoints. They are expected to be sent to sites of strategic importance, where their presence would be used to deter attack.

The Foreign Office did not explicitly say Britons should ignore the Iraqi order to go to the Hyatt Regency, Meridien and International (formerly Hilton) hotels, but it was implicit. Washington has said it will not order its citizens in Kuwait to comply.

Iraq has said that "anyone who does not comply with this call, they and their governments bear full responsibility for any evil consequences resulting from acts against them by hostile elements". Michael Weston, the British ambassador in Kuwait, passed to London details of those taken from their hotels. "Families of those known to be affected have been informed," a spokesman said.

The government expressed its "gravest concern". Britain was putting "the greatest possible" pressure on Iraq to release the Britons and diplomatic protests were made by the ambassadors in Kuwait and Baghdad.

Baghdad said on Saturday that Britons and Americans would be moved to military and civilian installations and held there until the danger of war was over. President Saddam Hussein said in a speech read yesterday on Iraqi television that the policy of using foreigners to deter an attack was "a gain for humanity in general".

After the wife of one hostage accused Paris of keeping their detention secret for three days, France yesterday confirmed that 27 French nationals were being held somewhere in Iraq. Soon after the unidentified Frenchwoman appeared on France's TFI television chan-

nel for their rescue, a foreign ministry spokesman confirmed that the French citizens had been taken away. The woman said the hostages included her husband and a girl, aged four, travelling without her parents.

The West German government said yesterday that the Iraqis had forced an unknown number of West Germans to travel from Kuwait to Baghdad. The foreign ministry and the government said the fate of an estimated thousand West Germans being held in Kuwait and Iraq was being monitored "with grave concern".

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, said in a message to those held: "We are doing everything in our power to help you. We want to get you back home as soon as possible."

With news that its citizens are among hostages held by Iraq, Australia said yesterday it was considering a more aggressive role for its two frigates heading for the Gulf. Belgium yesterday advised its 21 nationals in Kuwait to stay at home and ignore the order to gather with other Westerners at the hotels.

With the exception of diplomatic personnel, citizens of Hungary living in Kuwait

were yesterday also moved to Baghdad. The foreign ministry said 149 Hungarians left Kuwait city in five coaches and 26 cars escorted by two lorries.

Sten Andersson, the foreign minister of Sweden, criticised Iraq's threat to let Western infants suffer from food shortages as "cynicism beyond comparison".

Inder Kumar Gujral, the external affairs minister of India, concerned about tens of thousands of Indians in Iraq and Kuwait, yesterday had talks in Baghdad with Tariq Aziz, his Iraqi counterpart.

The official Iraqi news agency said the two men discussed "relations between the two friendly countries and emphasised that they were eager to expand these relations to promote their joint interests".

Abdu al-Kairi, Iraq's ambassador in Switzerland, said the 120 Swiss citizens in Iraq and Kuwait were being treated "the same as the other foreigners" and were not regarded as neutrals. He said it was obvious that "a country letting itself be drawn into any measure directed against Iraq is in the same boat as those nations applying the blockade."

NEW YORK

UN demands that foreigners be freed

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council, meeting in emergency session within hours of Iraq's declaration that it would use foreigners as a human shield against attack, demanded at the weekend that foreign citizens trapped in Iraq and Kuwait be allowed to leave.

The resolution demanded that "Iraq permit and facilitate the immediate departure from Kuwait and Iraq of the nationals of third countries and grant immediate and continuing access of consular officials to such nationals".

The text also demanded that "Iraq take no action to jeopardise the safety, security or health of such nationals". All 15 members of the council voted for the resolution, the fourth directed against Baghdad since the Iraqi invasion on August 2.

Two UN envoys were expected to arrive in Baghdad today to protect the interests of the stranded foreigners in response to an earlier appeal from the Security Council. They are Virendra Dayal, an Indian who heads the UN secretary-general's executive office, and Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian who is controller in the UN office of programme planning, budget and finance. Western diplomatic sources consider their mission "a very, very difficult job".

An estimated 4,000 Britons and 2,500 Americans are



Powers confer: Sir Crispin Tickell, Britain's ambassador to the UN, with Luyu Li of China before the unanimous vote trapped in occupied Kuwait and more than 700 Britons and 600 Americans are in Iraq. Thousands of other foreign citizens have also been prevented from leaving since the invasion.

On Friday night, Iraq announced that as many as 10,000 Britons, Americans and other foreigners would be scattered among Iraqi military

supplies are cut off by the UN embargo.

Yemen, the only Arab nation on the Security Council, voted for the resolution, but its ambassador, Mohamed Sallam, said food should be allowed into Iraq. The UN sanctions allow food and medicine shipments to Iraq for humanitarian purposes.

The Security Council met after holding informal consultations at the request of the United States. The resolution was drafted during an afternoon meeting of the council's five permanent members: the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

The Soviet Union had been "very helpful" to Britain and the United States, Western diplomatic sources said, and the Chinese had also been supportive.

A further meeting of the five, described by one diplomat as "the morning after the night before", was scheduled yesterday. Diplomatic sources said "there is a little talking in the air" about adopting a follow-up resolution under Article 42 of the charter imposing a UN blockade on Iraq to enforce the embargo.

The Canadian delegation was pressing for such a step at the informal consultations at the weekend. But none of the permanent members is seeking an Article 42 resolution immediately.

KUWAIT CITY

Westerners ready for trouble with hideaways and food hoards

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

MOST Westerners in Kuwait have hoarded enough food to last weeks and many have built secret hideaways, even bomb shelters, in their homes, according to John Ogilvy, aged 46, a Briton who escaped last week.

He believes that despite Iraq's determination to use them as hostages, Westerners could still flee with the help of maps being drawn up by a European rally driver with excellent knowledge of the desert.

Mr Ogilvy said that low morale among poorly fed Iraqi troops, many as young as 14 and 15, could also boost the chances of escape. His own group of 25 bribed its way to freedom last Sunday with a crate

of softdrinks, two bottles of water and a bunch of bananas. Others had spotted Iraqi soldiers in the desert, clearly cut off from supply lines, climbing date palms to pick the fruit.

While Mr Ogilvy's group escaped with the help of Kuwaiti guides, he said that three other groups, totalling between 40 and 50 people of all nationalities, had been led through the desert by a rally driver who left them near the border before returning to Kuwait City. The driver had drawn up and duplicated maps of confirmed escape routes to distribute to others. Mr Ogilvy said. Wardens, usually prominent expatriates, had been assigned to maintain contact between groups of Britons.

In the first few days after the August 2

invasion Britons and other Westerners stockpiled as much food as they could buy, mostly tinned meat, rice and long-life milk. "Most Europeans will be well set up," Mr Ogilvy said. "The people who will suffer will be the Asians, who don't have so much money and may not have been paid because it was still just the second of the month."

The conflict has turned many Westerners into self-taught survivalists. Mr Ogilvy, a chartered surveyor, adapted a shallow space between his bathroom ceiling and the roof of his house into an air-conditioned hideaway stocked with food and water to last three months. He disguised its entrance, tapped into the electricity supply and kept in contact with friends by radio-telephone. He shared the

space with a colleague. His wife and three children were to have joined him in Kuwait later this month.

Other Westerners, he said, had turned their bathrooms into bomb shelters, reinforced with beams from construction sites. Baths were kept full of water in the hope that they would absorb mustard gas if chemical warfare began.

While it was still, as he described it, "fairly safe" on the streets, the BBC's World Service, which everyone tuned to for hourly news bulletins, had convinced him that it was time to get out.

Mr Ogilvy, who spent much of 1986 and 1987 in Iraq, said that many Britons who had never been in a military situation were frightened by the sight of tanks and missiles in Kuwait. They had,

nevertheless, weighed up the risks and decided it was best to stay.

One British couple had stayed because the wife refused to leave her dog, although their son and daughter took their chances with a group which reached freedom on Thursday using one of the rally driver's maps. Mr Ogilvy said he was in contact with the son, who planned to go back to persuade his parents to leave, but he doubted whether Saudi Arabian border officials would allow his friend to return.

Mr Ogilvy was among 12 Britons in a group of 25 led by Kuwaiti guides who escaped to Saudi Arabia last Sunday and reached Bahrain on Monday. After an initial reconnaissance trip, they made their escape in a convoy including two stolen saloon cars.

OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

Israeli analysts foresee realignment with moderate Arab states

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

AS THE Israeli cabinet reviewed the Gulf confrontation yesterday, analysts here studying its long-term impact predicted a new Middle East balance in which the actions of President Saddam Hussein could lead to the alignment of Jerusalem with moderate Arab states.

"This has altered the strategic picture," one analyst said. "The West has been so preoccupied with the blockade and the threat of war it has overlooked one very significant fact: this is one crisis in which Israel and a majority of the Arab League states are on the same side."

Israeli sources said this did not mean that Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates, let alone Syria, were likely to drop their objections to the existence of the Jewish state or their demands for a solution to the Palestinian question. In addition, some fear that President Saddam's increasingly strident but effective calls to Muslims everywhere to support him in a "holy war" will stir the Arab masses to the point where moderate Arab regimes are either toppled or forced to change tack.

This could lead to a Middle East line-up in which Israel is more isolated than ever, facing a

hostile circle of Islamic fundamentalist populations. There is concern in Jerusalem that neighbouring Jordan could go in this direction.

Others suggest that, in addition to the threat of Arab nationalism, Israel must face the possibility that Washington, perhaps in an attempt to reach a compromise with Baghdad, might after all agree to consider Iraq's contention — which the moderate Arab governments would share — that all causes of Middle East tension and volatility should be considered at a peace conference, including the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This would run counter to the

Israeli view that the Gulf confrontation has made the West realise that the Israeli-Arab conflict is not the only Middle East issue, perhaps not even the central one. "When this crisis passes, the Bush administration will once again be free to deal with Israel as it wishes," *Masur* warned yesterday. "For this reason, original and daring political thought is needed now."

But for the time being, such worries take second place to satisfaction that the Iraqi threat, to which Israel had feared it might have to respond alone, is being confronted by an unprecedented alliance involving two-thirds of the Arab League as well as

the United States and Britain. This is at a time when American-Israeli relations, which had been shaky because of the refusal of the right-wing government in Jerusalem to engage in peace talks with the Palestinians, appear stronger than ever.

Washington has told Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, to "keep his guns holstered". President Bush is deliberately keeping the Israeli-American strategic axis in the background in order to focus on the new relationship being forged between the US and anti-Iraqi Arab countries led by Egypt. None the less, analysts suggest, the US will find itself contemplating a

greatly altered Middle East balance in which American-Israeli ties are as powerful as ever while Washington has new channels of communication, friendship and even military links with Arab nations from Syria to Saudi Arabia.

The Soviet Union, for its part, has also altered the equation fundamentally. Moscow is no longer supporting the radical cause in the Arab world to the extent it did.

"It is good that the present conflagration has happened now," Zeev Schiff, the leading Israeli military commentator, said. "If Saddam Hussein had embarked on this adventure in three or four years' time, he would have simultaneously occupied Kuwaiti oil fields, concentrated seven to ten armoured divisions, backed by ground-to-ground missiles on Jordan's border, and announced that he possesses not only chemical and biological weapons but nuclear weapons as well."

Mr Schiff said that Israel would then have been faced with a "terrible dilemma" over how to respond. "It is greatly doubtful whether the world would have convened against Iraq as it is now doing." The West, Mr Schiff said in the newspaper *Haaretz*, would not have perceived such a situation as a threat to its oil supplies but rather as an Iraqi-Israeli conflict.

Jordanian soldier killed by patrol in West Bank

ISRAELI troops shot dead a Jordanian soldier 17 miles from Jericho, on the West Bank, yesterday, the Israeli army announced (Richard Owen writes from Jerusalem).

The army said that a second Jordanian soldier was wounded and captured in the clash south of the Damiya bridge linking Jordan to the occupied West Bank. There was,

however, no suggestion that the clash would bring an Israeli response linked to Jordan's role in the Gulf conflict.

Israeli troops and the air force are on high alert after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Western military build-up in the Gulf. Israel has said that it would regard the entry of Iraqi troops into Jordan as a cause

of war. Yesterday's incident appeared to be one in a series of armed clashes on the Israel-Jordan border. There have been three such incidents so far this year, together with two attempts by Arab gunmen to infiltrate Israel from Jordan.

In Amman, a military spokesman said that two Jordanian conscripts had been missing from a guard post

in the Jordan valley since early yesterday. "We are still looking for them," he added.

The Israeli army spokesman said the Israeli patrol involved had been following suspicious footprints and had challenged the two soldiers, who had opened fire. The patrol had returned fire, killing one of the soldiers and wounding the other.

THE BUILDUP

Strategic needs of Gulf adversaries delay start of war

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NO ONE is in any doubt that a war in the Middle East is now unavoidable. But until the Americans can bring in enough forces — infantry, marine and armoured — and until Iraq can switch more divisions from the north to the potential battlefield on the Kuwaiti-Saudi border, both sides have good strategic and logistic reasons for postponing conflict for at least another three or four weeks.

If the United States intends to force the Iraqis out of Kuwait by military means, they will need to mount an amphibious assault with marines, forming a bridgehead to facilitate a continuous flow of reinforcements. So far only elements of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade have taken up positions in Saudi Arabia.

In anticipation of a possible assault from the sea by US marines, the 24 Iraqi divisions in southern Iraq are positioned right down near the border with Kuwait overlooking Bubiyan island, according to intelligence sources. West of Kuwait, the Iraqis have no "offensive potential", the sources said.

Yesterday, Iraq withdrew more troops and armour from its 24 divisions in the north along the Iranian border to help defend its southern border against possible attack by US-led forces in Saudi Arabia. The Iranian news agency said Iraq had been working around-the-clock to move troops and hardware from the border province of Ilam.

The Iraqi withdrawal from occupied Iranian border areas has gathered pace since the former Gulf war enemies swapped further batches of prisoners-of-war. Tehran radio said 1,000 more prisoners of war arrived in Iran yesterday, bringing the number of prisoners released by Iraq in the past three days to 3,000. Iran said it had released another 1,000 Iraqis, taking the total freed in the past two days to 2,000.

General Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, continues to insist that the mission of the American forces in Saudi Arabia is to deter and to defend. So far, despite the huge buildup, the Americans have only about 30,000 combat ground troops in Saudi Arabia, although the total military presence, including naval, air force and logistics personnel, is at least 60,000. But by mid-September, the picture will be different. The aim is to have 250,000 troops in position.

If American reserves are called up, that will be the most significant sign that the US

plans an offensive against the Iraqis. Under US mobilisation plans in the event of an East-West conflict in Europe, the first batch of reserves would total 200,000 men.

However, despite the logic of postponing a military operation until all relevant forces and all appropriate logistics have been put in place, the brinkmanship now being displayed by President Saddam Hussein appears to be aimed at provoking the Americans. The threat to foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq and the orders which must have been given to captains of Iraqi merchant ships to ignore blockade challenges by British and American warships, are part of President Saddam's campaign to keep his opponents off balance.

However, President Bush's policy must also be to keep the Iraqi leader guessing. While expressing deep concern for the hostages and outrage that

they might be placed at key military installations to deter an American attack, President Bush will have been advised that his strategy for dealing with President Saddam cannot be driven by the need to safeguard the lives of the foreign nationals trapped in Kuwait and Iraq.

Although American hostage rescue teams have been sent to the Gulf region, there would appear to be no possibility of a rescue operation. "Even for a small-scale operation, you need first class intelligence on the hostages' whereabouts and in this case we don't know where they are being taken," one source said.

The source added: "Even if some were rescued, it would make it much worse for those who were left behind."

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CHENEY VISIT

US warships continue to shadow Iraqi oil tankers

From JIM ADAMS OF REUTERS

RICHARD Cheney, the American defence secretary, said here yesterday that US warships were still shadowing two Iraqi tankers at which they fired warning shots on Saturday, but refused to say whether the US Navy would sink them if they continued to refuse to stop. Shots were fired across the bows of the tankers sailing out of the Gulf.

"I wouldn't want to speculate on what happens next," he said when asked what steps the navy might take if the ships refused to stop. "We obviously are prepared to see to it that the sanctions that the United Nations voted and the action that the legitimate government of Kuwait asked us to take are carried out."

The American warships

have, according to reports, been ordered to use minimum force, such as shooting out the rudders to stop the ships if necessary.

Mr Cheney later told reporters travelling with him in Bahrain, where he was spending the night, that the United States wanted voluntary compliance with the sanctions but that American warships were authorised to use force if necessary to halt goods going in and out of Iraq.

"No," he snapped when asked if the United States was backing away from President Bush's intervention order to halt goods traffic. "I cannot be in the position of giving you a blow-by-blow (account) of individual operational matters as they unfold,"

Kuwaitis may join up

THOUSANDS of Kuwaitis men who escaped after the Iraqi invasion may be brought together to form new units of Peninsula Shield, the small joint defence force run by the Gulf countries (Andrew McEwen writes).

A senior Gulf source said that this possibility would be discussed at a meeting of defence ministers of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council in Riyadh. The Ku-

waitis are in hotels and flats in Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Oman, but most have kept in touch with Kuwaiti embassies.

There is still some resistance inside Kuwait. Peninsula Shield at present amounts to little more than a token force with a purely defensive role, assisting the Saudi army. However, it is politically important in showing unity.

Mr Cheney said in Manama. "There is a regular process set up that comes to commanders on the scene here in the Gulf for approval to use force if necessary and those procedures are in force."

Mr Cheney said in Saudi Arabia there were no plans to send additional American forces beyond those originally planned for deployment in Saudi Arabia. He has refused to be specific about the size of the military effort, though commanders have said it is bigger than any single deployment in the Vietnam war.

"Should Saddam Hussein be foolish enough to launch an attack on Saudi Arabia, we would be able to do a very effective job of making him pay us a bit of a price for that," Mr Cheney said. "Obviously I'll be more comfortable once we've got more forces in the country."

Mr Cheney spent several hours touring a Saudi air base. Under a blazing desert sun, he stopped by an Apache attack helicopter, visited a mobile command headquarters that supervises airfield operations and talked with the troops.

As Mr Cheney walked around, followed by television crews, reporters and photographers, four F15 jet fighters roared off the runway, banked sharply and climbed. Mr Cheney will visit Oman today.

NEW YORK

Gas 'would only be used in retaliation'

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IRAQ will not use chemical weapons against the United States unless the Americans use nuclear weapons first, Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, told CBS television at the weekend.

"If Iraq is attacked by nuclear weapons we will retaliate by chemical weapons," Mr Aziz told Dan Rather during a 90-minute interview in Baghdad on Saturday. Asked if a nuclear attack on Iraq was the only circumstance in which it would retaliate with chemical weapons, Mr Aziz said: "Yes."

Mr Rather said it was clear from the interview that the thousands of American and British citizens in Iraq and occupied Kuwait would be used as "a human shield" against a possible attack.

Mr Aziz described Iraq's decision to move foreigners to key military and industrial sites as a precautionary move. He denied that preventing foreigners from leaving amounted to an act of war.

Fishing treaty

Honiara — The Solomon Islands have signed a fisheries access treaty with Taiwan, enabling their vessels to fish within the Solomon's 200-mile exclusive economic zone, officials said.

AQABA

Embargo starts to cut Saddam's last lifeline

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AQABA

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein's main food and supply lifeline through the Red Sea port of Aqaba is being rapidly cut despite the unshamed willingness of many Jordanians to break sanctions and unload any kind of cargo bound for Baghdad, including weapons.

A symbol of the squeeze on a port that only last week was sending about 800 lorries a day north along the desert highway to Iraq is the 150,000-tonne, Norwegian-owned, floating grain-storage vessel, the *Tanga*, which was sent home last Thursday after six years in Aqaba. "It had no more goods to store," said Awad Pell, the port's director-general.

Since the embargo on Iraq was announced, trade at Aqaba has dropped by more than 60 per cent and about 5,000 lorries lie idle in improvised parks around the port.

Iraq's sole surviving land route is being cut despite the Jordanian government's failure to instruct the port authorities on how to handle Iraq-bound cargo. King Hussein, a man trapped in the middle by the Gulf confrontation, has played for time by announcing he will consult the United Nations Security Council before taking a de-

cision on sanctions. "In most cases, the owners have taken the decision for the king by stopping ships carrying goods for Iraq on the way to Aqaba," said a spokesman for Amin Kassar and Sons, the leading shipping agents in Aqaba.

"We are prepared to go on unloading goods for Iraq, but the ships bringing them are not here. In the last few days, the number has dropped to a trickle." Yesterday there were only three, one unloading sugar, another cotton, and a third which arrived on Saturday night with a cargo of paper and food.

The Jordanian government is so opposed to denying food to Iraq that yesterday an official appeal was launched in Jordan to provide milk for Iraqi children.

"Why should we be involved in a plan to starve 17 million brother Arabs?" an angry shipping executive demanded. "I would supply the Iraqis with food from my own larder. It is hypocritical for the US to expect us to keep our land border open to Iraq to help people escape, and yet not allow us to send food and medicine there."

The drop in supplies for Iraq has been so sudden that on the desert highway yesterday it was possible to drive for 20 minutes without pass-

ing an Iraq-bound truck. Only three ships were at anchor outside the port compared with a normal average of 15 to 20, and shipping agents reported little prospect of change. "One reason is that the freezing of assets means Iraq is believed not to have cash to pay for some shipments," an agent said.

Mr Pell denied that Aqaba had been an important transit point for Iraqi weaponry since 1988. "Since the end of the Gulf war, the main products in transit for Baghdad have been staple foods like grain, rice and sugar," he said.

As well as objecting politically to the idea of a blockade on Iraq, the 40,000 people of Aqaba face economic disaster as a result of the loss of Iraqi trade, which amounted to more than 50 per cent of the port's turnover and provided jobs for about 25,000 dockers and lorry drivers.

First PLO criticism of Baghdad

From REUTERS IN ABU DHABI

A LEADING Palestine Liberation Organisation official declared yesterday that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait was illegal, the first direct criticism of Baghdad by a PLO leader. Jawad al-Ghussein, chairman of the Palestine National Fund, said: "We are against the occupation. We have, and still do, support Iraq in its national stance, but its occupation of Kuwait is an illegal act."

He added that the PLO should not take sides in the crisis. "It is not in the interests of the Palestinian people to stand with any Arab state against another Arab state."

The Palestine National Fund is the finance arm of the PLO, handling millions of dollars a year in contributions from Arab oil states. Mr al-Ghussein is an independent member of the PLO's executive committee.

Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, has so far declined to condemn Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait. He was in Algeria yesterday holding talks with President Chadli Benjedid, apparently discussing a Gulf mediation plan.

RIYADH

Attack on Saudi airbase would give pretext for heavy retribution

From ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN RIYADH

LANDING in the dark at the huge airbase in Riyadh, the plane swept by the silhouettes of scores of military aircraft lined up beside the runway. First to come into view were three Boeing Awacs early-warning planes, easily recognisable by the saucer-shaped antennae perched on their backs. Then came a concrete park crowded with planes drawn up in ranks, as if ready to take off in formation, followed by several huge CSAs, the biggest US-built transports. Then came three more Awacs.

A senior Western official viewed the scene with dismay. "If the Iraqis attacked this lot, it would be another Pearl Harbor," he said. Two well-aimed Scud missiles could have destroyed most of Saudi Arabia's early-warning capability and many other Saudi

and American aircraft. But that would need an accuracy that the Scuds may not have.

What seems more likely is that an attack would cause limited damage, while providing the US, Saudi Arabia and Britain with a reason for overwhelming retaliation. As the airbase is surrounded by the city, the missiles might cause more civilian rather than military casualties.

The lack of precautions against any attack may reflect the speed of the US build-up and a lack of time to disperse planes to safer locations. But it could also show over-confidence in the Saudi ability to predict and pre-empt a surprise attack.

The Saudis have five Awacs, which they operate themselves after years of training by the United States. Others have been brought in

by the US in the past two weeks. At least one must have been in the air while we were on the ground, since a tanker plane used for refuelling the Awacs in flight took off, using the entire runway to gather speed because of its heavy cargo.

Diplomatic sources point out that early warning from Awacs would give time to intercept a conventional air attack, but not one carried out by Scuds. They added that if the Riyadh base looked a tempting target, Dahrhan must be an even juicier one since it had a much greater concentration of aircraft.

Our plane, an RAF VC10 tanker, had landed there because of an air-traffic control mistake. It was to have come down at Riyadh international airport 10 miles away to drop off General Sir



Mr Clark: strengthening ties with smaller Gulf nations

Richard Vincent, Vice Chief of Defence Staff, for talks with Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Wilson, Air Commander British Forces Arabian Peninsula. Air traffic control assumed because it was an RAF plane it should go to the military base. But many of the 18 passengers

were civilians, including Alan Clark, minister for defence procurement.

Mr Clark returned to Britain yesterday after visiting three countries in four days. Britain is strengthening its ties with the smaller Gulf countries amid fears that President Saddam may use a mixture of threats and promises to weaken their unity. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will make a similar visit at the end of the month.

On the last leg of his 8,000-mile journey, Mr Clark said the visit had come just in time to prevent Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates gaining the impression that they were being overlooked.

The aircraft and personnel Britain has sent to the Gulf are in Saudi Arabia and Oman, but there is a high risk of Iraqi threats against the others. Although they condemned the

Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, they did so as members of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council.

The three states have assured Mr Clark of their support for US-British policy and have confirmed that their airfields would be available. No request for British forces was made by Qatar, but Bahrain agreed that British fighters should be rotated between its airfields and Dahrhan in Saudi Arabia. The outcome of Mr Clark's talks with the rulers of Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates was not disclosed.

Mr Clark confirmed that the Armilla Patrol had been cleared to use force to stop ships suspected of breaking trade sanctions. "Ships have authority if necessary to use appropriate levels of force," he said.

Mr Clark visited HMS Ju-

pter at Jebel Ali, the UAE's main port, which is regularly used by the patrol. Petty Officer George Malcolmson, who runs the Jupiter's electronic warfare department, said they were concerned about air attack. "These ships were designed to work together in the North Atlantic in groups, to protect each other, under the United Kingdom air defence system," he said. In the Gulf, American early-warning aircraft would provide some notice of an Iraqi attack. The Jupiter, a Leander-class frigate, carries Seawolf anti-missile missiles capable of stopping Exocets.

The patrol may also be threatened by fast armed boats of the Iraqi navy. "The coast is infested with smugglers in fast boats coming over from Oman to Iran. It's difficult to know whether they are hostile or not," he said.

Helpline tells relatives not to be panicked by scare stories

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND PAUL WILKINSON

THE group providing an information lifeline for thousands of relatives of Britons trapped in Iraq and Kuwait told anxious callers yesterday not to be panicked by unconfirmed reports from the Gulf.

A spokeswoman for the Gulf Support Group, which is operating a bank of telephones from a small office in the New Connaught Rooms in London, said that people should be wary of "shock horror stories" about the rounding up of detainees by Iraqi soldiers for transfer to strategic locations. She said the distress of families waiting for news of the fate of relatives caught up by events in the Gulf fed on unconfirmed reports which may well turn out to be false. "It is crucial that families of detainees should know where they are and the support group will continue to pass on to them verified information as it becomes available. We stress that unconfirmed reports should not be too readily believed."

Giving advice to relatives has become a round-the-clock exercise. Normally Joanna Copley manages the office of a small London computer firm, but in the world turned upside down by Iraq she has become agony aunt for those desperate for news.

She is a leading light in the support group, a mixture of volunteers and professional counsellors, fielding calls from anxious relatives and providing information, advice and, most important, comfort. It grew out of the efforts of Robert Kingswood, MP for Bristol Kingswood, who has a close friend stranded in Kuwait, and Miss Copley's own BA Flight 149 support group, set up to secure information on her sister Katherine and other passengers on the British Airways jet trapped at Kuwait airport.

Four telephone lines have been provided by British Telecom. Most of the callers are women, anxious for news of their husbands.

"We try to pass on as much information as we can, but most of

all we try to reassure people," Miss Copley said. "Many are keen just to talk, sharing a few details of their home life or what job their husband was doing in the Gulf."

Working with her is her husband Tony Moorby, who is on indefinite leave from his job as a tax consultant with a firm of City accountants, and her brother Jonathan, who has been released from his university vacation job as a psychiatric hospital porter to help.

Every call, taken by the team in four-hour shifts, is treated in strict confidence to protect those still held captive. Details originally kept on a card index have been transferred to a computer database. "When people ring in I can talk knowledgeably about the part of town their relative was last in and that helps reassure people," Mr Moorby said.

The groups' sources of information are scant. Arrangements with some of the main international news agencies provide some details and they have regular meetings with the Foreign Office. But their main input comes from people who have escaped.

A big boost for the group was a call from a Baghdad hotel with messages of reassurance from Britons detained there. Occasionally the international lines are reconnected and the hotel staff are quick to inform the residents the lines are up.

Finance has so far not been a problem. One firm with Gulf links has made a donation and much of the equipment and staff come free. But Mr Hayward gave a warning that if the group was forced to operate for some time its need for cash would grow.

The number of people the group has helped reached four figures within days of the start of the crisis. "We don't know just how many there are held out there, but frankly that's not our problem. We're just here to help anyone who is worried," Mr Hayward added.

The group's numbers are: 071-430 9920/9921/2506 and 2562.



Two Britons who escaped from Kuwait, after their arrival at Gatwick airport yesterday with tales of subterfuge and courage. Jenny King (left), aged 28, from Luton, Bedfordshire, made her dash to freedom with nine others on Friday. They disguised themselves as Bedouins, the men dressed in long cloaks, and the women dyeing their hair and wearing full Arab headresses. Miss King, who went to Kuwait in January to work as a hotel recreation manager, said the invasion happened "very quickly indeed". "The hotel was on the beach and by the middle of the day we were surrounded by tanks, jeeps and soldiers. The BBC World Service has been our only link with the outside world, and every single word is dissected until the next hour's new bulletin. When we heard on Thursday that the Iraqis had ordered westerners to

go to hotels we decided that was an obvious invitation to become hostages, and we were not prepared to become that. It was a very traumatic journey, and when it was finished we still could not believe it was over," she said. David Smith (right), who drove to freedom, said he came terrifyingly close to Iraqi soldiers as he escaped across the desert. At one point he was detained by an excited Iraqi soldier who held a gun to his head before eventually letting him go. Mr Smith, from Scotland, added: "You're looking up and a barrel's looking down at you and this guy is shouting. I didn't really know what was going to happen next." Several times he nearly ran over tanks almost buried in the sand, he said. "The turret would open and a head would come out. But by that time my Chevy was a cloud of dust," he added.

World Service gives listeners a radio lifeline

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SINCE the BBC World Service was launched in 1932 as the Empire Service, there have been few occasions when its listeners in Kuwait and Iraq have tuned in and listened more avidly to its broadcasts.

Escapees from the Gulf have testified that the English language broadcasts from Bush House, where executives wryly point out that excellence is pursued at "four-pence-a-penny" per programme, have remained their only reliable source of news.

The information lifeline has been extended by four-and-a-half hours to round-the-clock broadcasting in English and by 90 minutes to ten-and-a-half hours per day in Arabic.

In line with long-held policy, the English language service relays to British nationals abroad advice and information from the Foreign Office in times of crisis.

Thus yesterday listeners heard that the British Embassy in Kuwait had "received clarification from the Iraqi authorities of the instructions being broadcast by local radio stations for all Westerners to report to various hotels in Kuwait."

"The Iraqis have said those who report to the hotels will be transferred to what are described as key installations in Kuwait and Iraq."

The bulletin, however, went on to relay Foreign Office advice that expatriates should remain at home and maintain a low profile but to offer no resistance if attempts are made to move them forcibly.

A spokesman for the world service, which employs 30 in its

Arabic section, said: "We are now broadcasting right through the night so we are quite keyed up. We are not taking on any more staff, just having to work harder."

Intermittent attempts have been made by the Iraqis to jam the Arabic broadcasts, which have up to ten million listeners, from a powerful transmitter south of Baghdad but these have had only limited success.

Ironically the importance of Bush House to British nationals in Iraq and Kuwait coincides with attempts by the Treasury to seek spending cuts.

The Gulf crisis is expected to be used by John Tusa, managing director of the BBC World Service, as a powerful negotiating weapon in talks on the next three-year budget.

The spokesman said: "We have received an awful lot of endorsements for what we are doing. People always specially tune at times of crisis like these. It is interesting that in a sense you only come into your own in a time of emergency but that is only possible because you are there all the time and earn your reputation then. You can't just turn on and off."

For only the second time since the second world war, the world service is to make short-wave frequencies available for broadcasts with messages home for British servicemen in the Gulf.

The government, advised by the Foreign Office, gives the world service about £120 million a year and lets it get on with the business of broadcasting in 37 languages around the globe.

Exiled editor says he is printing resistance newspaper

By JOHN YOUNG

THE editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas*, who is producing his publication from west London after leaving his home for a European holiday the day before the Iraqi invasion, said yesterday that he saw it as a resistance newspaper. "Saddam is playing power politics. If we cannot defeat him, at least we can make him bleed," Mohammed Al Rumaihi said yesterday.

Before the invasion by Iraq, the tiny state of Kuwait boasted five Arabic and two English daily newspapers, he said. "We have traditionally had a very liberal attitude

towards freedom of speech and expression," Mr Al Rumaihi said.

Al-Qabas was one of the biggest newspapers, with a circulation of about 100,000 locally and 20,000 abroad, he said. An international edition was started in London in 1985.

For the past week Mr Al Rumaihi and half a dozen colleagues have been producing a four-page broad sheet in London using printing facilities and technical assistance provided by the Saudi newspaper *Asharq Al-Awsat*. His newspaper is also being printed in Saudi Arabia, Cairo and New York. He acknowledged the difficulties of running a

newspaper with a tiny staff, and said that his stories came from a variety of sources, including newspapers in other Arab countries, international news agencies and correspondents in other Gulf states.

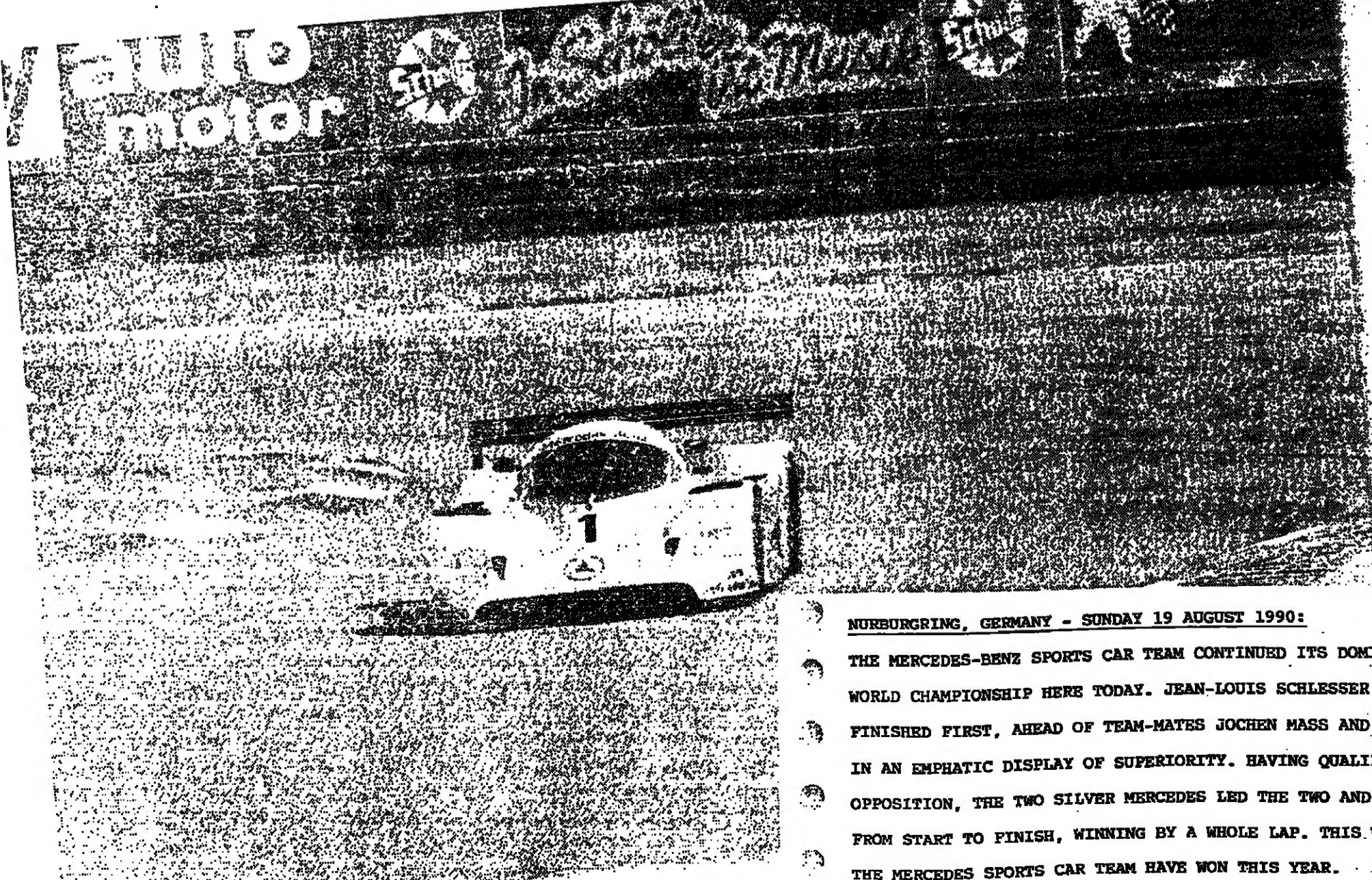
He said that he was also getting news out of Kuwait, by means he was unwilling to disclose, and produced pictures that he said were taken inside occupied Kuwait. He said that the Iraqis were setting up concentration camps for foreigners trapped in Kuwait, especially British and Americans.

Mr Al Rumaihi said that another Kuwaiti newspaper, *Al-Anba*, had started printing in Cairo, and that others are expected to start

elsewhere this week. The Iraqi government had protested about the use of "illegitimate" material and had threatened to blow up the premises of newspapers in exile, he said.

Al-Qabas had carried a number of stories from foreigners escaping Kuwait, including Egyptians, Indians and Filipinos. The newspaper was also carrying information for Kuwaitis abroad, including the fact that tickets on Kuwait Airlines were valid on Saudi Arabian Airlines and Gulf Air. They were being encouraged to fly to other Gulf states where accommodation would be available, and where younger people in exile could train for future military action.

MERCEDES-BENZ 1ST AND 2ND AGAIN



NURBURGRING, GERMANY - SUNDAY 19 AUGUST 1990:

THE MERCEDES-BENZ SPORTS CAR TEAM CONTINUED ITS DOMINANCE OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HERE TODAY. JEAN-LOUIS Schlesser and MAURO BALDI FINISHED FIRST, AHEAD OF TEAM-MATES JOCHEN MASS AND MICHAEL SCHUMACHER IN AN EMPHATIC DISPLAY OF SUPERIORITY. HAVING QUALIFIED AHEAD OF THE OPPOSITION, THE TWO SILVER MERCEDES LED THE TWO AND A HALF HOUR RACE FROM START TO FINISH, WINNING BY A WHOLE LAP. THIS WAS THE FIFTH RACE THE MERCEDES SPORTS CAR TEAM HAVE WON THIS YEAR.

(RESULT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION)

ENGINEERED LIKE NO OTHER CAR
IN THE WORLD



Gospel singing and guitars celebrate rural church revival



Mr Rees: "We feel we are in the mainstream"

If a small church in a former Gloucestershire mining village is any guide, the rural church in England is thriving and likely to grow after many years of decline. A congregation that once numbered 200 now regularly tops 200 and gives £1,000 a week, in the collection and in donations.

Many would argue that the church of St James in Bream, bordering the Forest of Dean, is not typical but its own members say that it represents the church of the future, if the church is to survive. The vicar, the Rev Phil Rees, said the evangelical style made the church one where Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury designate, would feel at home. Even with ten families on holiday, yesterday's two-hour morning communion was crowded with 150 people.

Last week, the results of a detailed survey of the role of the church in rural areas showed clear signs of optimism among Anglican clergymen. While not all rural churches are thriving, many more are than is generally believed.

A spokesman for the Gloucester diocese said: "The giving at Bream is tremendous. It is one of those phenomena, maybe the result of a bit of straight gospel preaching. There are many problems in the rural church, but to counteract that there are also many successes."

Bream, the last village in the Forest of Dean to see its pits closed, has higher than average unemployment for the county. The small stone

Gospel songs have replaced hymns, the vicar wears collar and tie and Sunday school has become the "J squad", but the Rev Phil Rees feels his break with tradition represents the way ahead for the rural church. Ruth Gledhill visits a parish where the congregation has jumped from 20 to 200.

church, set among gently rolling hills, has all its well-tended gravestones still in place, now a rare sight in the Anglican church. Burial continues to be more popular than cremation in Bream.

Recently, the population of the village has changed with an influx of retired people, commuters and first-time buyers attracted to a new estate. The communion service was loosely based on rite A in the 1980 alternative service book, although the book of common prayer is used as a basis for the evening service. The vicar described the service as "relaxed and disorganised".

His 15-minute sermon contained no mention of a vengeful God, ready to cast sinners into hell. Instead, Mr Rees prayed for "a crop of children" for his newly weds.

When Mr Rees, who trained at Wycliffe Hall at Oxford, moved to Bream 15 years ago, he found a robed choir, chanted canticles and psalms and a congregation of 20. Today, children don't go to Sunday school, they join the "J squad". Traditional hymns have been replaced by gospel songs and a choir by a small guitar-led group. Half the congregation's generous donations go to

mission work and half to the Church of England. The only organ is electric and pews have been replaced by comfortable padded chairs. The main topic of after-church conversation was the forthcoming Marches for Jesus, a prayer march around the nation next month in which Mr Rees plans to walk from Holyhead to Lowestoft.

"As a church we feel we are in the mainstream of what is happening rather than in a backwater. I think that is essential otherwise people can become parochial, especially if you live in a forest," he said. The church has seven deacons, none ordained, who include three women, and five elders. Mr Rees is the only paid staff member. Besides the two Sunday services, church members meet regularly in home groups and Bible study.

Mr Rees conceded: "We are not everybody's cup of tea. There is a problem with people who have never been to church. They have an image of what a church ought to be, sitting down and standing up when you were told, singing hymns and going home as if it is a hobby."

For the service Mr Rees wore grey trousers, a shirt and tie and a navy blue round neck sweater.

"The clergy do not help, with their cassocks and dog collars. They make it a separate culture. Our problem is getting rid of the images of the past."

He echoed the conclusion of the report, by the Rural Church Project, that there were signs of renewed commitment. "I would not write any parish off. There is nowhere in England where God cannot turn the whole thing round. It is partly true that the rural church is in decline. Many churches in this area are struggling. But there are others where people have a vision and things are different."

It is a sign of his success that most of the old congregation have stayed with the church, despite the changes. Queenie Hooper, who is nearly 80, said: "I have been coming here for 63 years. It has changed very much. This is what the younger generations like. It encourages them to come, the music and liveliness. We were more staid."

Ron Watkins, aged 58, returned to the church after many years' absence. "Everything I was taught at Sunday school suddenly became alive."

The church claims examples of healing. Roger Martyn, aged 23, turned to the church after a history of depression and periods in psychiatric hospitals. He no longer takes anti-depressants or tranquillisers. "This church follows the Bible and the word of God. I come here because I believe in God. Before, I felt there was nothing for me in this world, there was no purpose and no point."

Hundreds of cases delayed by judges' workload

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of court cases are being delayed by several months because high court masters, junior judges who make rulings in many civil cases, claim that their workload in the Queen's bench division is too heavy. The masters have made representations to the Lord Chancellor.

The high court masters give summary judgment in such civil cases as those concerning debt and personal injuries. They also handle pre-trial issues before cases come to a full hearing.

The delays mean that the progress of cases in a range of matters is being held up. Hymann Berger, managing clerk with Elliot & Co, a London firm of solicitors, said: "If you issue a summons,

the earliest date for a hearing before the masters is now December or January. This situation is creating havoc for litigants and their legal advisors who can't get on with the action."

Last year the number of Queen's bench masters' summonses rose from 55,608 to 78,192. They handled some 75,000 orders and judgments. The Lord Chancellor's Department said that as a result of the masters' representations, an extra master has been appointed, bringing the total to ten.

However, this appointment could be seen as filling a vacancy created by the death of a master last year. With the impending retirement of the senior master, Master Warren, at the end of next month, the number of masters will still be two below establishment.

The Lord Chancellor's Department could not comment on the delays. Mr Berger said that they were a reverse of the situation that used to exist when a full hearing was awaited before the judges. Pressure from the judges had, however, successfully reduced the waiting time.

He said that 30 years ago a summons was heard within 10 days of being issued. "If a summons was given a hearing date of three weeks your eyebrows went up. But then this crept up to four or five weeks, and then to two or three months."

Mr Berger said that matters could become worse under proposals for much High Court work to be handed down to the county courts, where the registrars were already over-burdened. Instead, there should be an increase in the number of masters and of clerks who work in the administrative offices.

● Convicted killers should not face automatic life sentences, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders says (John Lewis writes).

The number of people serving life terms in England and Wales has increased almost four-fold in the past 20 years, according to figures published by the association today. The penal reform group says that judges should be allowed to determine how long a convicted killer serves instead of being forced to hand down the mandatory life sentence for murder.

Its report says that by the end of last September, the number of people serving life was 2,674 (7 per cent of the sentenced prison population) compared with 730 (2 per cent) in 1970. At present, life sentences are indeterminate, although judges can recommend how long someone should serve. That recommendation is then reviewed by the Home Secretary in consultation with the Lord Chief Justice and, whenever possible, the trial judge.



Nipsy, the game Barnsley gave to the nation and here being played by two experts, Tom Chambers (right) and Billy Ingham, is to be thrown open to the world. But the main problem is that the rest of the world

has never heard of it. Played in the south Yorkshire town's streets and backyards for generations, the first World Nipsy Long Knock Championship is to be held on September 29 as part of Barnsley's Feast of St

Michael celebrations. To help prospective competitors, who so far number 80, official rules have just been drawn up. Each contestant in the game has three attempts to hit

hardwood with a nipsy (a miner's pick axe handle or railwayman's brake stick). The wood has to be flipped first from a brick before being hit. The world record is believed to be 178 metres.

North Sea strike leaders to announce next move

By KERRY GILL

LEADERS of the unofficial strikes that have hit the North Sea oil and gas industries are today expected to disclose details of the next phase of their campaign to win union recognition, and to improve safety and working conditions offshore.

In the wake of the fifth 24-hour stoppage in under three weeks by contractors' men, leading members of the unofficial Offshore Industry Liaison Committee held a private meeting in Aberdeen last night to assess the effect of the strikes.

Ronald McDonald, chairman of the committee, claimed that more than 1,000 men took part in the latest strike that ended yesterday, but the figure was dismissed as an exaggeration by the oil companies. So far, oil produc-

tion has not been affected by the wildcat strikes that have been aimed at disrupting essential maintenance work on offshore platforms and rigs.

North Sea oil production is running at about 1.55 million barrels of oil a day compared with a peak of about two million barrels, due to the planned shutdown of some platforms for maintenance. Oil companies are worried, however, that if the strikes continue, maintenance schedules will be thrown out of gear causing delays in a return to full production.

Official union leaders are to try to hold a strike ballot of oil contract workers. This will be hampered by the refusal of the employers, represented by the Offshore Contractors' Council to co-operate. The council

decided to withdraw its offer of help after saying that the official unions had lost control of the strikes.

The number staging air-ops on Shell platforms and floats in the Brent field have dropped to 170. Shell will tomorrow seek an interim interdict at the Court of Session in Edinburgh ordering the men to return ashore.

● Staff at ITN are today still considering whether to hold a strike ballot after union officials met yesterday to discuss their next move in an increasingly bitter pay dispute.

Management are said to be optimistic that a new 6 per cent pay package, including the promise of more cash by August next year, would be accepted. The proposal replaces a 4.5 per cent pay offer rejected by staff.

Global warming report 'will fail'

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE international community's formal response next week to the greenhouse effect will be a failure, according to Greenpeace.

The final report of the UN-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which will be drawn up at a four-day meeting in Sweden, is meant to provide the policy recommendations for the World Climate Conference to be held in Geneva in the autumn. At the conference, governments may begin the process of tackling global warming by agreeing on action to restrict emissions of greenhouse gases.

However, Greenpeace, which has produced a rival report, and other British environmental pressure groups, fear that the recommendations might be so insubstantial as to fail to confront the problem.

The science working group of the IPCC, led by British meteorologist, warned in May that the greenhouse effect was real and that urgent action was needed. However, in June, the American-chaired working group on policy responses failed to recommend specific action, offering only a list of options.

This was widely considered to reflect the position of the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan and Saudi Arabia, which have appeared to be more conscious than European Community nations of the difficulties and costs of countering global warming. The final IPCC report will be an amalgam of the conclusions of the three working

groups. The author of the report, Bert Bolin, of Stockholm University, is known to view global warming seriously. Nevertheless, Greenpeace fears that the influence of America and like-minded nations might prevail, making the report less than the clarion call the situation is felt to demand.

The IPCC, its scientists excepted, has failed in what has been the most important international consultation process in history," Jeremy Leggett, Greenpeace's director of science and editor of the rival report, said. "The policy-makers have refused to listen to the dire and virtually unanimous warnings of the climate scientists. They continue to recommend the distribution of a few bandages in the face of an effective plague warning."

However, another British environmentalist, Stewart Boyle, of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, said that the Gulf crisis might influence American thinking on saving energy and lessening dependence on fossil fuels. "The oil crisis is another reason for the Americans getting off the fence," he said. "I think Professor Bolin will probably be prepared to stick his neck out and I think in the end Americans may come on board."

"What we must have is a strong statement of the need for the industrialised countries to take unilateral action to counter global warming now. Unless we get that, we will not get the co-operation of the developing countries, which will be increasingly important," Mr Boyle said.

Global Warming: The Greenpeace Report. (Oxford University Press; £5.95).

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today
Chest, Heart and Stroke Association launches record-breaking attempt by launching 60,000 balloons at Blackpool. Preview in Edinburgh of exhibition marking bicentenary of architect William Henry Playfair.

Tomorrow
Jury in Guinness trial due to retire to consider verdicts. Sotheby's begins two-day sale of rock and film memorabilia. International conference on animal welfare and the environment opens in Oxford.

Wednesday
National Audit Office publishes report on homelessness. GCSE examination results released. Balance of payments figures for July published. Environmental campaigner David Bellamy launches "green" survey, at London Zoo. Two men due to appear before Sheffield magistrates in connection with Iraqi "supergun" affair.

Thursday
Results of new survey on lifestyle published. Energy secretary John Wakeham switches on National Power "wind farm" at Carmarthen Bay, Dyfed.

Friday
Edinburgh Television Festival opens. League against Cruel Sports brings prosecutions at Bulth Wells, Powys, against five men for alleged cruelty and killing badgers.

Sunday
Town and Country Festival at National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

Scientists braced for lively debate

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S annual festival of science begins today at the University College of Swansea. Scientists and those interested in science are gathering for a week of lectures, visits, discussions and social and cultural events under the umbrella of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The programme covers the whole range of science but this year is focused on the environment, a subject that the association's president Sir Claus Moser believes deserves special attention for policy reasons and because it has links with all the sciences. The programme opens today with a session on the scientific understanding of climate change which is expected to set the scene for further examination of the detailed issues during the week.

This evening, in his presidential address entitled the Need for an Informed Society, Sir Claus is expected to call for a dramatic overhaul in Britain's education system.

For well over a century the British Association has been a forum in which scientists and non-scientists exchange views and occasionally argue. Often dismissed as a relic of the past, it has survived and can still produce a distinguished roster of speakers.

In recent years it has also set up a vigorous youth group and, with the Royal Society and the Royal Institution, a committee to improve the public understanding of science.

Dredger 'should be banned'

The Bowbelle, the dredger involved in the Marchioness sinking, and her three sister vessels should be banned, a group representing survivors and victims' relatives, said yesterday. The call was made at a memorial service at Southwark Cathedral for the 51 people who died when the Marchioness sank in the Thames a year ago today. The group also claimed the government had been "negligent" in handling the disaster.

Aids ignorance

Almost one in four people are unaware of the dangers of catching Aids by heterosexual sex, a Gallup survey for The Daily Telegraph discloses today. Of 1,024 people interviewed, 24 per cent thought Aids could not be passed on by heterosexual sex or were unsure. The results come six months after the government announced that one-quarter of new HIV-positive infections were among heterosexuals.

Children killed

Police said a man was being "processed for drunken driving" yesterday after a hit and run accident left three children dead. A boy aged 14 and a girl aged 10 died at the scene of the accident in Millisle, Co Down, on Saturday night. A girl aged 14 died in hospital. The survivor, a boy aged 14, was released from hospital yesterday. A man was arrested at a caravan site near by and a vehicle taken for examination.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, bond number 21KP 846448, winner lives in Harrogate; £50,000, bond number 1GK 151987, winner lives in Surrey; £25,000, bond number 20CF 306409, winner lives County Durham.

CORRECTION

Two hundred out of the 586 beds at St Bartholomew's hospital have been closed, not 200 out of 368 as reported on August 16.

Stamps: The Times Express 8 p.m. 55p. Australia 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Canada 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Cyprus 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Denmark 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Finland 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Germany 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Greece 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Iceland 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Ireland 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Italy 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Japan 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Korea 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Luxembourg 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Netherlands 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. New Zealand 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Norway 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Portugal 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Spain 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Sweden 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Switzerland 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Taiwan 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Thailand 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. Turkey 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c. USA 50c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 100c.

White truffle found a long way from home

By ALAN HAMILTON

IN A corner of what used to be Yorkshire, where fancy foreign comestibles are still traditionally regarded with the gravest suspicion, a trainee horticulturist has accidentally unearthed one of the world's rarest gourmet foods.

David Hollingsworth, a second-year student at Bishop Burton college of agriculture, was digging a garden in the Hesle district of Hull, now unwillingly consigned to the county of Humberside, when from a rockery under a holly tree he uncovered a 20 gramme (0.7 oz) white truffle. The identity of the precious fungus has

been confirmed by a local company specialising in luxury foods.

Truffles are by no means uncommon in Britain, and are often found in beech woods. But the native variety is *tuber aestivum*, an unlovely bluish-black object covered with warts. The white truffle, *tuber piconatum*, is scarcely known in Britain and does not even feature in standard British botanical reference books.

White truffles command a high price, those harvested in late autumn in the Alba district of Piedmont, Italy, sell in London for £750 lb. Summer truffles are less prized, and are

generally sold only locally in Italy.

Matthew Pinhey, a director of Porters's the Yorkshire food firm which identified the Hull truffle, said there was no mistaking its scent. By the time Mr Hollingsworth brought it to him it had shrunk to 15 grammes (0.5 oz), but it was still an excellent specimen, not least because it was out of season.

Although much prized, the white truffle still takes second place, at least in French cookery, to the Perigord truffle, *tuber melanosporum*. Truffles have been savoured as a delicacy since classical times. Pinhey regarded them as among the most wonderful of all

things, living as they do without a root. The Roman gourmet Caelius Apicius gave six recipes for cooking them.

Mr Hollingsworth, who learned at the weekend that he had gained a distinction in his second-year examinations, said yesterday: "I found the truffle in a very dry, well-drained and exposed part of a large garden, a high rockery near a holly tree. I have kept it in a jar of rice since finding it, which is what experts recommend."

The French traditionally use pigs to sniff out truffles. A whole new career may be opening up for Yorkshire terriers.

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Exams for pupils on all GCSE courses

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

EXAMINATIONS are to be compulsory in all GCSE courses under new regulations published today to counter criticism that some courses rely too heavily on work done throughout the year at home and that pupils are being helped by parents or teachers. Final examinations will now have to account for at least 30 per cent of marks, with course work providing at least 20 per cent. The remaining 50 per cent can be accounted for by other examinations taken during the two-year course. At present, some courses require no examination at all.

The new regulations have been introduced by the Schools Examination and Assessment Council after John MacGregor, the education secretary, had asked it to consider all GCSE regulations. The new rules will apply to courses beginning in September 1992 in English, maths and science to bring them into line with the requirements of the national curriculum in 1994.

The GCSE grading system will also be changed from 1994 when it becomes the means of testing children at 16 under the national curriculum. The old grading system from A to G, with the U mark for papers that were too poor to be graded, will be replaced by grades one to ten.

Grades 9 and 10 will replace A grades with 10 being of a higher standard than the present A. Grades A-C,

roughly equivalent to O-level passes, will be replaced by grades 7-10.

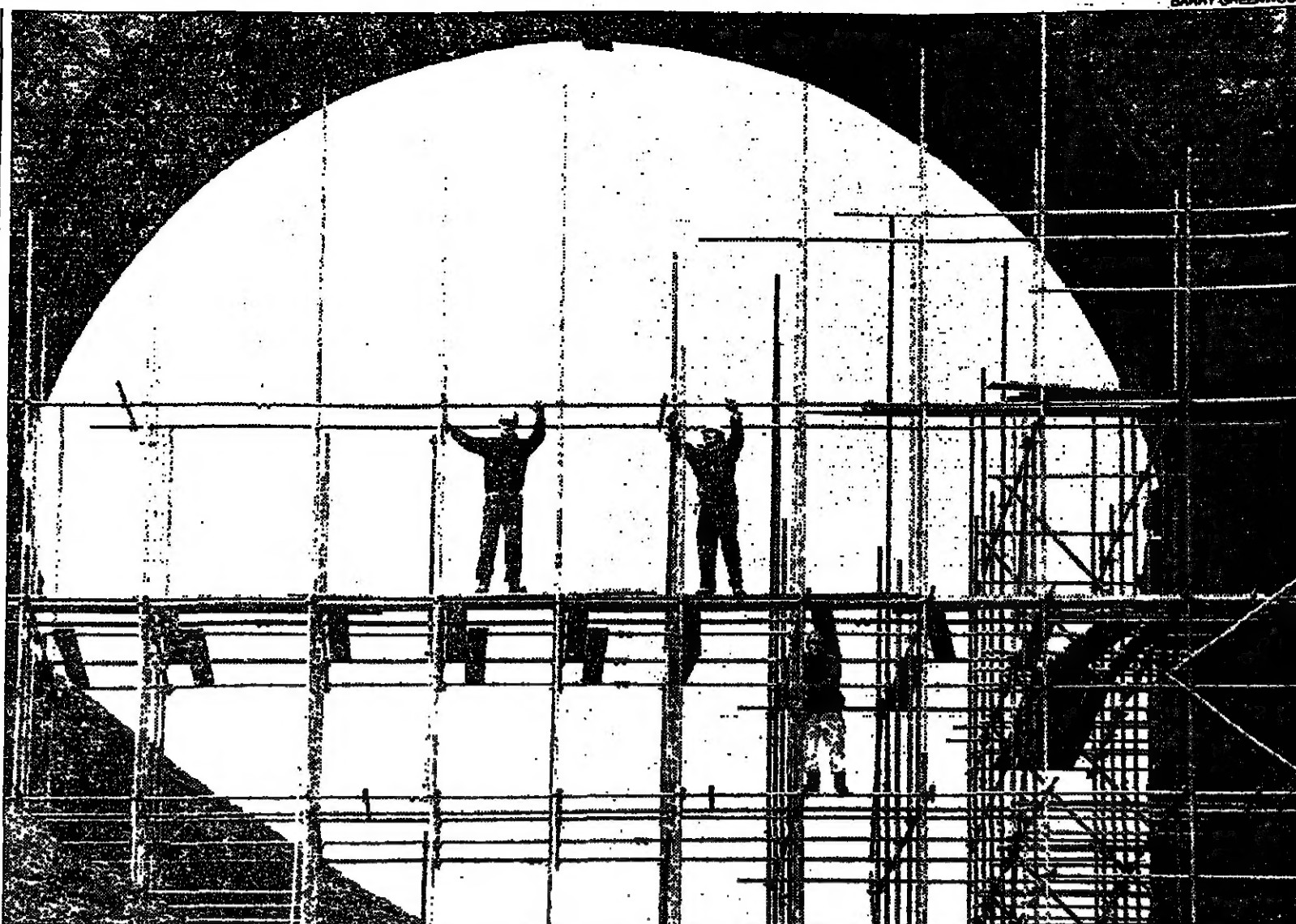
American, Bangladeshi, Caribbean, Dutch, and Danish teachers will join others from Australia, New Zealand and Ireland in schools throughout London in September to combat the teacher shortage.

Incentive allowances, costing up to £2 million for each borough, have been introduced to recruit sufficient teachers. They have been offered assistance with accommodation, a full month's salary before starting work and a £750 London allowance.

Dutch teachers will work in Lambeth, Hounslow, Newham and Greenwich; 35 Americans have joined Islington and six have gone to Camden; 44 Trinidadians are due in Hackney, while South-west has concentrated on Australian and New Zealanders.

While overseas recruiting has been successful, home-based campaigns have generally failed, the Labour-controlled Association of London Boroughs says. Few women have been attracted back to the classroom and only a small number of teachers replied to a £250,000 recruitment campaign. The one exception was Hounslow where women returners filled more than a third of primary vacancies.

Back to school, pages 12, 13
Education, pages 24, 25



Underneath the arches: scaffolders begin work at Ribbleshead viaduct on a £2 million project to repair the 24-arch Yorkshire Dales landmark

Homeless increase forecast under Labour

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would reverse the expansion of the private rental market, made since the 1988 Housing Act came into force, to allow assured tenancies at market rents, the Association of Residential Letting Agents said yesterday.

The association was commenting after Clive Soley, Labour's housing spokesman, had indicated at a briefing that his party would introduce legislation returning the market to the

control of rent tribunals. The association said it was clear that Labour intended to reintroduce rent controls abolished by the Housing Act and to give tenants back the right to claim security of tenure, and that the present assured tenancies would be repealed and BES (Business Efficiency Schemes) housing schemes would be discontinued. Mr Soley said the legislation would not be retrospective and that it was unlikely to be introduced before the second year of a new parliament.

Judienne Wood, chairman of the association, said: "Just when it looked as if private letting was really beginning to take off following the deregulation brought in by the 1988 Housing Act, here we are facing the bad old days again."

"People will again be frightened to rent because they will rightly fear that they will never get their properties back." She forecast a consequent increase in homelessness.

The question of homelessness is dealt with today in a report by an

alliance of urban and rural groups. It concludes that land should be specially earmarked for affordable housing in urban and rural England.

In *Home Truths*, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and Communities and Homes in Central London call for a new planning mechanism, introducing a new "use class" category to define in local authority plans where housing can be built which is permanently available for those who cannot afford market prices.

Unification may revive EC budget disputes

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE imminent incorporation of East Germany into West Germany could revive the disputes of the early 1980s between Britain and its EC partners over budget contributions, a study published today by the Institute of Economic Affairs predicts.

The claims of a united Germany on EC farm spending will mount rapidly, shifting the main financial burden onto Britain, according to the report's author, Richard Howarth, lecturer in agricultural economics at the University College of North Wales.

"East Germany has tremendous agricultural potential (being formerly the breadbasket of pre-war Germany), which the common agricultural policy's high prices and subsidies will unlock. West Germany could soon cease to be the paymaster of Europe's budget, leaving the UK as the biggest net contributor," he writes.

The closer relations being sought with the EC by East Europe offer Britain its best opportunity to escape from the common agricultural policy (CAP) or at least to change its highly protectionist form, Mr Howarth argues.

"It is extremely doubtful if a highly regulated CAP could ever be applied to all these countries... The conglomerate would be too disparate and too unwieldy. Even if they were only permitted a free trade area, their agricultural impact would seal the fate of the existing CAP."

Farming for Farmers? (Richard Howarth, Institute of Economic Affairs, 2 Lord North Street, London SW1P 3LB, £10.95 plus 50p p&h)

The quiet revolution of Whitehall speeded up

MARGARET Thatcher is accelerating her quiet revolution of the civil service with plans for a further 30 government departments, employing 211,480 staff, to opt out of the central Whitehall bureaucracy by becoming free-standing executive agencies.

The prime minister, as head of the civil service, is poised to create a permanent break-up in the ranks of Britain's 598,000 civil servants. The ultimate target is to have three out of every four civil servants working for agencies that carry out public service functions but have an "arms length" relationship with central government.

At least half the civil service is on course to become executive agencies by the end of next year. Since 1988 a total of 33 agencies has been set up, employing 80,750 civil servants. Peter Kemp, the project manager in charge of the transfer, has said that his aim is to have 100 agencies established.

The new candidates for opting out include the defence research agency, the central statistical office, royal parks, the national health service estates office and the passport office. There will also be a partial reform of the 29,000-strong Customs and Excise service and of the main duties of the Inland Revenue, a department that employs 89,000 staff.

The concept of executive agencies came from the *Next Steps* initiative proposed by Sir Robin Ibbs' government efficiency unit in an attempt to infuse the "civil service culture" with Thatcherite entrepreneurial spirit.

The relocation of more civil servants away from London and the South-East, and the demise of hundreds of quasi non-governmental organisations (quangos) are also part of the revolution designed to leave White-

The prime minister wants a further 211,480 civil servants to work for executive agencies, as Sheila Gunn reports

hall with only a few thousand policy makers.

The new emphasis will be on exploiting any profit-making potential while improving services to the customer. From the autumn the agencies will be publishing annual reports.

The Commons treasury and civil service committee described the reforms as the "most ambitious attempt at civil service reform in the 20th century". The cross-party committee of MPs said, however, that the transfer must not dilute ministerial accountability. The MPs have asked for a full Commons debate on the implications of the reform.

John Garrett, Labour MP for Norwich South and a member of the committee, has said that the government is merely replacing quangos with partially independent non-governmental organisations (pingos). "It is ironic that, having abolished many quangos, the government is now setting up scores of pingos. I am concerned about just how accountable the chief executives of these agencies will be to Parliament."



Garrett: fears about chief executives' accountability

liament. However, it would be difficult to abolish pingos if Labour came into power because it is a system which cannot be unpicked.

The *Sir Humphreys* and the civil service unions are sceptical about the reforms. The Council of Civil Service Unions told the committee that agency staff still see themselves as civil servants and are worried about the prospect of agency staff being paid less than the nationally set civil service rates.

The committee found no evidence during a recent enquiry that the reforms were leading to the "Thatcherisation" of Whitehall. Richard Luce, the former civil service minister, when questioned by the committee, said: "I do not think it is unreasonable for secretaries of state to take a close interest in the type of person who is being appointed [as chief executive]."

The potential for bringing executives from business and industry in to run the agencies is seen as another route for attracting potential top mandarins from outside. For the revolution to work, the Commons committee wants hands-on managers to have equal status with traditional top policy-making civil servants.

Norman Lamont, chief secretary to the Treasury, said: "I am not saying we would rush into paying people exactly the same as the private sector candidates, but we do want the post of chief executive to be open to the private sector."

Mr Kemp is also aware of the danger of the government setting up new bureaucracies to shadow the agencies. He has predicted that, after completing his task of setting up the agencies, there will have to be some kind of organisation that would "keep people awake, to throw grit in their faces from time to time."

Poverty figures 'doctored'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE "poverty lobby" is today accused by a leading free-market economist of doctoring statistics to justify redistributive taxation policies. Dr David Green of the Institute of Economic Affairs argues that the real aim of such policies is the "equalisation" of people and the buttressing of the state, rather than the relief of hardship. He says these goals have been hidden beneath a "smokescreen of compassionate talk about relieving poverty."

Dr Green, director of the institute's health and welfare unit, takes issue with the "oft-repeated claim" that one third of the country is poor. He says that the figure, cited by the Child Poverty Action Group, is based on misleading use of language. "The facts are that 5

per cent of the population is below the supplementary benefit level, about 11 per cent live on it and a further 19 per cent live on incomes up to 40 per cent above the supplementary benefit level."

Dr Green maintains that there is no justification for including those above the benefit level among the poor, and he is also critical of claims that the poor have become poorer under the Conservatives because supplementary benefit levels have not risen as fast as average earnings.

He says the facts do not, as many commentators believe, support the conclusion that the "trickle down" effect, under which all benefits derive from a prosperous economy, is a myth. "It may or

may not be a bad thing that supplementary benefit levels rose less rapidly than average earnings, but either way "falling" remains distinct from "rising". There is a difference between being at or below the supplementary benefit level and being up to 40 per cent above it.

In his pamphlet *Dr Green argues that far from fostering selfishness, capitalism is centrally concerned with discovering the best way to curb this trait without creating a monster in the form of a state machine, which threatens liberty more than private human selfishness.*

Equalising people: Why social justice threatens liberty (David Green, Institute of Economic Affairs, 2 Lord North Street, London SW1P 3LB, £3.95).

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Tense lull in townships as death toll reaches 275

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THERE was a tense lull in South Africa's black townships yesterday, although a group of reporters in Soweto, on Johannesburg's southern border, were horrified when about 20 black youths stabbed and beat a Zulu before their eyes, then poured petrol over him and set him alight.

The death toll in the townships climbed overnight on Saturday to at least 275 with more than 1,500 people wounded and hundreds left homeless in one of the worst weeks of black-against-black violence in the country for many years. The most seriously affected area at the weekend was Soweto, where the number of known dead rose from 22 on Friday to 78 yesterday.

The crime of the man attacked by the youths in front of reporters in the West Jabavu area was to have a pistol. The youths believed him to be one of the migrant Zulu workers living in hostels in the huge township who have been in battles with local residents.

The assault began when the taxi carrying the Zulu suddenly reversed down a barricaded street in an area that has seen much fighting. Their interest aroused, the local youths stopped the minivan and searched its occupants. They found the Zulu clutching a pistol in a paper bag.

The driver and other passengers were freed, but the youths showed no mercy to the Zulu, aged about 40. Speaking Zulu, they repeatedly asked him why he had the weapon. He offered no explanation and began to cry. The mob dragged the man

into a nearby barricaded street and hit him with rocks and slashed and stabbed him with pangas. "Where did you get that gun?" they shouted. Getting no satisfactory answer, they poured petrol over him and set him alight.

The man, his skin smouldering and his head bleeding heavily, was still alive when an ambulance took him from the scene of the attack, which was not particularly cruel or unusual by the grim standards of the townships.

At Tokoza, on the eastern Witwatersrand, about 35 miles from Johannesburg, there was renewed fighting at the weekend between Zulu migrants, who are mainly supporters of the Inkatha movement, and Xhosa, who are generally identified as supporting the African National Congress. Reports put the death toll at 27.

"We were just drinking and being happy," said Steven, a Zulu armed with two spears and a shield. "They came to kill us. They came to drive us out but we will kill them."

A mob of 1,500 Zulus beat axes and axes against their shields and chanted with cries before going into action. Some Xhosa bodies were castrated and had their hands cut off.

An ominous new cry is being shouted by the Zulus. "We will not be ruled by a Xhosa," an indication of the extent to which the tribalised fighting is being politically manipulated.

Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the ANC, is a Xhosa, but there is still no indication of or when he will meet Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the leader of Inkatha.

A proposed peace forum, which was set up after talks between Mr Mandela and Adrian Vlok, the minister of law and order, last Thursday, appears to have been shelved indefinitely. The forum was to consist of representatives of all parties involved in the violence, including the police.

Police and troop reinforcements have been poured into the townships, but some residents have accused them of bias, claiming they have ignored heavily armed Zulu impi, sometimes carrying them, while systematically dismantling the police. The police have rejected the criticism, saying that they are doing their best to end the violence.

English-language newspapers yesterday reported that two young white sergeants walked to the middle of a football field and negotiated a truce between Zulus and residents squaring up at opposite sides of the pitch.

The Zulus accused residents of attacking them and burning their hostels. "We haven't slept for three days," their spokesman said. "We are here to work, not to fight. But if they don't leave us alone we will go out there and do something."

As residents on the edge of the pitch performed the *toyitoyi*, the ANC liberation dance, the policemen negotiated with delegations from both sides. It was agreed that there would be no fighting, but both sides demanded police protection.

In Vereeniging, south of Johannesburg, and in Welkom, a gold-mining town in the Orange Free State, thousands of blacks took part in protest marches through the streets on Saturday morning. White right-wing extremists had threatened to cause havoc but police and troops were out in force and there were no serious incidents.

Tamils get offer of protection

Colombo - A Tamil guerrilla group, the Democratic People's Liberation Front, has offered to mobilise 500 of its fighters to protect Tamil villages in the island's eastern province after armed Muslim gangs ransacked 200 Tamil homes in Batticaloa district (Vijitha Yapa writes).

The Muslim attack last week was seen as an apparent retaliation for the killing of about 300 Muslims over the past three weeks by Tamil Tiger guerrillas. The Democratic People's Liberation Front is a to the Tigers.

Coup rumours

Manila - Four bombs exploded in separate parts of the Philippines capital as the military remained on red alert amid rumours of a coup attempt, officials said. President Aquino has weathered six military rebellions since he came to power in Manila in 1986. (AFP)

Hess clashes

Wunsiedel, West Germany - Hundreds of neo-Nazi marking the third anniversary of Rudolf Hess' death clashed with a group of left-wingers holding a counter-demonstration. Police said that they arrested 46 people in this town where Hitler's former deputy is buried. (AP)

Begin better

Jerusalem - Menachem Begin, the former prime minister of Israel, was discharged from hospital and was moving to Tel Aviv at his family's request. Mr Begin, aged 77, has been recovering from a broken right hip since he fell in his home in July. His condition was described as good. (AP)

Kenya enquiry

Nairobi - Kenya's Attorney-General has ordered a public enquiry into the death of Bishop Alexander Muge, a government critic who died in a road accident after death threats from Peter Ouko, the labour minister. Church leaders and lawyers suggested foul play in the death. (AP)

Rail protest

Marseilles - Widespread protests against plans to bring high-speed trains to the Provence region left about 20,000 railway passengers stranded, French officials said. The protesters fear that the new line through Provence to Marseilles will destroy the region's scenic beauty. (AP)

Amazon reserve

Brasilia - Brazil is to set aside almost 12 million acres of land for the Caiapo Indians, making their Amazon reserve one of the largest in the world, an Indian spokesman said on Saturday. With the expansion, the Caiapos will occupy some 27 million acres. (AFP)



Sharp reminder: Norbert Blum, left, the West German labour minister, Jozsef Antall, Hungary's prime minister, and Lothar de Maiziere, his East German counterpart, at the Austro-Hungarian border in Sopron at the weekend, exactly a year after the exodus of East Germans began

Gorbachev seeks allies by righting wrongs

-MOSCOW COMMENTARY-

MARY DEJEVSKY

PRESIDENT Gorbachev issued two decrees last week, each annulling actions of previous Soviet leaders. The first rehabilitated whole categories of people condemned to death or to prison camps by Stalin. The second rescinded orders issued by Brezhnev and his successors which stripped Alexander Solzhenitsyn and 22 other cultural figures and dissidents of their Soviet citizenship.

Both moves were explained by the urgent need to right past wrongs. Soviet commentators asked how the country could build a democratic law-governed state and restore moral standards if such glaring injustices are not overturned.

The elevated rhetoric about noble ideals and the recovery of lost moral standards is not without truth. How can the Soviet leadership preach justice and honour when some of its most honorable citizens and former citizens are the victims of continuing lies and injustice? But it is not the whole truth. The justified rejoicing in Soviet cultural circles and abroad over the presidential decrees does not obviate the need to ask the perennial political questions: who benefits from Mr Gorbachev's undoing of his predecessors' misdeeds, and why has he chosen to act now?

The obvious answer to the first question is that the chief beneficiaries are all those unjustly killed or persecuted, their relatives and their

friends, all of whom will have suffered by association. The obvious answer to the second is that resistance within the leadership prevented President Gorbachev from reversing the injustices before and his summer holiday gave him time to sign the decrees.

These explanations should not, however, be accepted uncritically. Not all those who benefit from the two decrees are likely to be satisfied. The families of some of the rehabilitated victims of Stalin may well turn round and demand something more tangible than the restoration of their family's good name.

As for the restoration of citizenship, controversy has already arisen in Mr Solzhenitsyn's case. Did he agree to the return of a Soviet passport or not? Anyway, the brevity of the list is said to reflect the desire of the Soviet authorities to offer restoration of citizenship only to those enforced exiles who actually want it back.

The only 100 per cent beneficiary of last week's decrees is the person who issued them: President Gorbachev.

The latest batch of rehabilitations relates to three quite specific categories of people: so-called kulaks, peasants condemned for working too

hard and earning too much money; clergy and religious believers; and ethnic minorities who were deported from their homeland en masse. All these groups comprise people the Soviet leadership particularly needs on its side.

On present-day kulaks will depend the fortunes of planned agricultural reforms, which are designed to encourage entrepreneurship and independence. Aggrieved ethnic minorities are causing endless difficulties for the leadership, both by agitating to return to their native areas and by claiming back land and houses after being permitted to return. Local authorities need clearer guidance about their status.

The churches, primarily the Russian Orthodox Church, but other Christian denominations as well, are attracting unprecedented public support. Opinion polls show them to be among the institutions most trusted by people around the country. Hours of Soviet television are now devoted to religion and religious activities; the price of bibles and religious literature on the black market is continually rising. The church is a force which the leadership cannot afford to push into opposition.

The dispute as to whether Mr Solzhenitsyn agreed to the restoration of his citizenship indicates clearly where the initiative for his rehabilitation originated and how much im-

portance the leadership attaches to harnessing the chronicles of the Gulag to its cause. The author is regarded in Russia - as a prophet and sage. His return would occasion scenes reminiscent of the Pope's first return to Poland.

The announcement that Mr Solzhenitsyn's citizenship had been restored was followed by the publication of a letter to him from the Russian Federation's prime minister, Ivan Silayev, inviting him to return as his personal guest. "It is precisely the interests of the state and its long-term fate which require me to ask you and your family to accept my invitation," it said. "Now, when the conflicts of which Russian life is woven have reached their height and threaten a new schism, your return to Russia would be as essential to our homeland as air."

Mr Silayev's appeal could be interpreted as an attempt by the Russian Federation to prevent President Gorbachev from claiming all the credit. However, it also helps to answer the question of why he has acted now. In the present climate of disintegration and discord, the president could delay no longer. Having played the kulak, church and Solzhenitsyn cards, however, he has little left in his hand for the future.

Leading article, page 9

Taylor 'will join peace talks'

FROM REUTERS IN HARBEL, LIBERIA

CHARLES Taylor, the Liberian rebel leader, is to fly to Banjul, the Gambian capital, today for talks with African leaders aimed at ending nearly eight months of civil war, his National Patriotic Front of Liberia said yesterday.

Mr Taylor was to meet President Jawara of The Gambia last Friday to discuss a ceasefire. The meeting was postponed until today after

Mr Taylor failed to arrive in Banjul for what were officially described as technical reasons. "He will be there," Eric Scott, the front's spokesman, told reporters near Mr Taylor's headquarters in the former rubber-producing town of Harbel, 40 miles from Monrovia. He said Mr Taylor would also meet Presidents Rawlings of Ghana, President Babangida of Nigeria and

President Museveni of Uganda, in Banjul. Mr Museveni is acting chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

Nigeria and Ghana have contributed troops to a 2,500-strong peacekeeping force assembled in neighbouring Sierra Leone ready to enter Liberia if a ceasefire is agreed. Mr Taylor accuses President Babangida of supplying arms

and ammunition to President Doe of Liberia, who is clinging to power in his fortified mansion in Monrovia.

Thousands of people have died since Mr Taylor, a former associate of President Doe, invaded Liberia from Ivory Coast last December. The conflict has become a bloody tribal feud pitting Mr Doe's Krahn people and the Mandingo Muslim trading community against Gio and Mano tribes backing the rebels.

President Doe and Prince Johnson, the rival rebel leader, have welcomed the peace-keeping plan, organised under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States.

Mr Taylor's fighters have made no visible progress for about ten days in their offensive on Monrovia's eastern suburbs. The loosely defined front line remains about three and a half miles from the presidential mansion.

Diplomatic sources said America was finishing its evacuation of foreigners from central Monrovia yesterday. Over the past two weeks, American helicopters have pulled nearly 1,500 foreigners out of Monrovia.



Prince Johnson, the Liberian rebel leader, distributing rice to nuns in Monrovia

ISLAMABAD NOTEBOOK by Christopher Thomas

Pakistan puts the wraps on Indian TV glamour

For 43 years, Pakistan's greatest obsession has been India. This manifests itself sometimes in bizarre prejudices. The perceived Hindu cultural threat to the Islamic state is worrying people in high places in Islamabad, hence a sudden purge of Indian-made television commercials and the decadently attractive models who appear in them.

State-controlled Pakistan Television (PTV) has banned advertisements that smack of Indian culture, be it the product, the location, the models or the music. No more are screens adorned with invitations from bare-shouldered Indian women to use Fair and Lovely bleach cream, Rose Petal tissues or Olivia talcum powder.

Because of Muslim mores there are few professional female models in Pakistan; besides, they cover themselves from head to toe. Consequently, the makers of TV commercials went to India to find less inhibited glamour. They used to go to Europe, Hong Kong and

condemned when their commercials exposed rather too much of young Indian women to the Pakistani masses. PTV, stung by criticism, instantly banned 15 Indian-made advertisements and imposed a blanket ban on any further offerings from across the divide.

Television in Pakistan does not show Indian films either, because of fear of cultural contamination. The alarm has been sounded since Indian television, known as Doordarshan, started beaming programmes from a transmitter close to the border in Punjab. Millions of Pakistanis tune in: Hindi movies and soaps now have huge Pakistani ratings.

Doordarshan's acclaimed and recently concluded television production of *Mahabharata*, the Hindu epic, was as phenomenally popular on the Pakistani side of Punjab as it was throughout India. The purge of television commercials is quite bizarre, because a new commercial station has just been launched in which that most

decidedly foreign of television phenomena, Cable News Network (CNN), is being transmitted across Pakistan live from the United States. A censor sits constantly in front of a monitor at the headquarters of Pakistan Television Network (PTN), his finger hovering over a button, which he stabs when something deemed unsuitable appears on the screen. The picture viewers see is instantly broken up. The story goes that the censor fell asleep during the transmission of previews of the latest Hollywood films, when a homosexual love scene and lots of heterosexual kissing were broadcast.

PTN went on the air in Islamabad and Karachi just before Benazir Bhutto's government was toppled. It remains to be seen whether it will be allowed to continue unhindered under the present hardline caretaker administration. It had planned to expand into 18 cities within the next six months, encouraged by Miss Bhutto's "open skies" policy for

broadcasting. (Open skies or not, PTV remained a government mouthpiece throughout her rule, and her administration ordered the second channel not to produce news or current affairs programmes.) PTV would no doubt like to see its rival curtailed, because ratings have taken a severe hammering as people tune to CNN for Gulf news.

Miss Bhutto, ousted two weeks ago, returned to Islamabad yesterday to launch her comeback attempt at a press conference in the garden of an old family friend, a dentist. She was on top form: the opposition has nobody to match her skills as a campaigner and orator, even if her Urdu is not all it might be. She attacked the "opportunists" who overthrew her, and left nobody in doubt that she is a formidable, courageous fighter. The Daughter of the East says she draws her inspiration from her father, hanged by General Zia in 1979, who told her: "Never give up."

Further tests on Turin Shroud

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN ROME

ONE of the Roman Catholic Church's most revered relics will continue to be subjected to further studies to test its authenticity.

The Turin Shroud, which is held by many Catholic scholars to be the winding sheet in which Jesus Christ's body was wrapped for burial after his crucifixion, has been described as a medieval fake, but this view has not been accepted fully by the Vatican.

In October 1988, a group of scientists and historians from Oxford and Tübingen universities, as well as the United States, concluded after exhaustive carbon tests to establish its age that the shroud was, in fact, made somewhere between 1260 and 1390. The shroud was once the subject of a papally approved shroud prayer.

On Saturday, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, the Vatican press spokesman, announced the Holy See's authorisation for further tests. He added that the shroud, which is kept in a silver casket, posed scientific problems: "The way the image was formed remains quite mysterious."

The announcement coincided with the appointment of a new pontifical custodian of the shroud, held in Turin where it was once under the protection of the Italian royal family, the shroud is now in the custody of the archbishop of Turin. The appointment of Mgr Giovanni Saldarini as the new archbishop was announced on Saturday.

Although the church has never officially recognised the shroud as authentic, the Vatican has always insisted on "respect and veneration for this icon of Christ", in the words of Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, the previous Archbishop of Turin.

The Vatican announcement noted that the dating of the shroud to medieval times "was in contrast to preceding results... which put it at a date of 2,000 years ago". It was, after all, an experimental date, the Vatican spokesman said, "and in the future, as in the past, the church will take into consideration every serious and competent proposal and pose no conditions, other than the safe keeping of the shroud".

Serbs defy ban on referendum

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERBS, defying a ban imposed by the Croatian government, went ahead yesterday with a referendum on their autonomy, an issue which has brought Yugoslavia closer to civil war and threatened to involve the federal army.

Voting in the Knin region, where several hundred thousand Serbs represent a majority, began on schedule after heavily armed Serbs set up road blocks to prevent Croatian police from stopping the referendum. Croatian authorities had proclaimed it unconstitutional and threatened to prevent it.

The referendum was intended ostensibly to assert the cultural rights of Serbs, who represent 11 per cent of Croatia's 4.5 million population. However, the original intention was to seek territorial and political autonomy, which the Croatian leader, Franjo Tudjman, warned would have meant the legalisation of "a state within a state".

Serbs have been guaranteed all cultural and ethnic rights by the new, democratically elected non-communist government - which gave rise to the belief that Serbs in Croatia were preparing for autonomy in case a future Yugoslavia was constituted as a confederation, within which Croatia, like other republics, would have full sovereignty.

The Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, whom Croatia has accused of organising a Serbian plot, said Serbia would demand an extension of its present frontier should Yugoslavia opt for a confederation - a warning that would mean claims to Croatian areas where Serbs are a majority. The assertion of such claims would, in effect, be a declaration of war.

Serbia and Croatia, the two largest republics, form the power base on which Yugoslavia's existence depends. But relations between the two deteriorated dramatically after Dr Tudjman's government came to power.

The Croatian authorities say that they are the victims of an armed insurrection, conceived, planned and conducted by Serbia and its leader. They accuse Serbia of deliberately arousing Serbian fears in order to destabilise Croatia, and provoke an intervention by the Yugoslav army.

An army spokesman denied that the military was involved when Serbs were handed guns, rifles and territorial army uniforms. He said that the situation was "very dangerous", and warned that the army would prevent any attempt to provoke bloodshed.

But Dr Tudjman said on Croatian television: "We knew about the scenario to create confusion in Croatia, intended to topple Croatia's legitimate authority." He said the authorities had "realised that it would be foolish to use the army as this would have pushed Yugoslavia to the brink of civil war, and would have meant the end of Croats and Serbs ever living together" in one Yugoslavia.

The fact that Croatia has not prevented voting suggests that a showdown has been averted. Yugoslavia may not yet be heading for a civil war, but the tension in Croatia is an indication of the trouble ahead. A high-ranking Western diplomat said that the leaders of Yugoslavia's squabbling republics will have to decide quickly on future constitutional changes.



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AN ULTIMATUM TO IRAQ

The detention of foreign civilians in Iraq and Kuwait is a violation of international law. Should harm come to any of them, as a result of Iraq's further threat to deport them to civilian and military installations for use as human shields, President Saddam Hussein will have committed a crime against humanity. In the resolution on Saturday demanding their release, the United Nations Security Council was right to specify that it was acting under the UN charter's chapter seven, which is directed against "threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression".

Resolution 663 demands that Iraq assist all foreigners to leave Iraq and Kuwait immediately. It holds Baghdad responsible for their welfare and reaffirms that the annexation of Kuwait, where foreigners are now being rounded up, is "null and void". Iraq has refused to comply. The price Saddam has set on the hostages' heads is, quite simply, unconditional acceptance of Iraq's conquest of Kuwait. The security council's unanimity reflected the horror Iraq's action inspires. Unless it complies with resolution 663, the UN must authorise military action.

Saddam may have calculated that the hostages would become the determining factor in Western policy. He is right to the extent that no civilised government can fail to concern itself with the lives of its citizens abroad. However, Saddam's record of contempt for law, human life and his own promises leaves this concern vulnerable to his ruthlessness. There is no reason why he should not continue to hold hostages against some new demand, should the outside world decide to make retreat the better part of valour.

At moments such as this, military amateurism tends to hold awful appeal. Only fools — of whom there seem to be plenty — could seriously contemplate a military operation to rescue Western hostages. In Kuwait alone, the difficulties of landing, rounding up, securing and escaping with those threatened with deportation to Iraq, some 9,000 civilians, must be insuperable. The hostages are at risk from any plan of action against Iraq. Their greatest security must be the world's damnation of any harm that should befall them.

The issue is not Saddam. It is Kuwait. The restoration of its independence has been the justification for all action in the United Nations, so far confined to economic sanctions but supported with varying degrees of determination by naval and air deployments. Actual recapture of Kuwaiti territory by military

means would be hugely difficult. Hence the British and American efforts to intensify the economic blockade. This has meant action not as yet approved by the security council, thus requiring the tenuous justification of article 51 (the "self-defence" of Kuwait).

Matters have now reached the pass where President Bush may conclude that delaying military action will cost more lives than swift action. It would be better for such a military operation to take place under the multilateral auspices of a security council resolution. But if the security council cannot swiftly authorise military action to recapture Kuwait under article 42, then under article 51 action there must be.

The form of an ultimatum to Iraq would be simple. Unless Iraq withdraws forthwith from Kuwait, all those prepared to assist in securing the integrity of Kuwait will take such means as are necessary to drive it out. The Americans now appear to believe that they can do this, presumably by neutralising the Iraqi air force, destroying Iraqi mechanised divisions in Kuwait, using airborne troops to cut the Kuwait-Baghdad road and lay siege to Iraqi forces in Kuwait City. New assessments of Iraq's military strength have played down its battlefield effectiveness.

An operation against Iraqi forces in Kuwait is not, in itself, an attack on the sovereignty or integrity of the Iraqi state. The US and its allies could hope to hold Kuwait pending an Arab garrison and wait to see what effect the defeat would have on anti-Saddam forces within Baghdad. Such an operation cannot be certain in its outcome.

But it would be just and, if the US determines to embark on so bold an act of world policing, the rest of the world would do well to support it. While the operation would have to destroy Iraq's air power, this could be justified as essential to Kuwait's defence. The majority for action at the Arab summit could hardly argue that there was another way to restore Kuwait's sovereignty.

This, of course, does not help the hostages. Iraq should need no reminding that hostilities provide no excuse in international law for using hostages as a weapon. Were Saddam to harm foreign civilians, the rest of the world would have every justification for regarding him as beyond the pale not just internationally or in the Arab world but within his own territory. That would be an escalation of a wholly different order and would place Iraq itself in the firing line.

STRIKING FOR SAFETY

A strike for better safety standards in a dangerous industry is *prima facie* the sort of industrial dispute to command public sympathy. When that industry is North Sea oil extraction, public memory is seared with images of the Piper Alpha disaster of 1988, which cost 167 lives. The government said at the time that it was not satisfied the rigs were safe enough. Expensive alterations were ordered, by the end of this year, to prevent a repetition.

Rarely in industrial relations is anything as simple as it seems. Safety is the main reason given by contract workers on North Sea oil rigs for action which has resulted so far in four one-day stoppages, mass dismissals and a sit-in on a number of oil platforms. The issue is certainly not pay. Earnings in the North Sea are good. Both the strikers' unofficial leadership, the Offshore Industry Liaison Committee, and the employers' body, the Offshore Contractors Council, regard pay as a secondary issue.

Behind safety lies the issue of union recognition, and this is not straightforward. Many in the North Sea work for contractors, and are under short-term contracts themselves. This method of employment is now under attack. There is intense competition for maintenance and construction contracts in the North Sea and for skilled labour to carry them out. The contractors naturally fear that collective bargaining will remove the flexibility they need to underbid their rivals. Employees want the stability of employment that a more regulated method of fixing pay and conditions would provide.

Safety aside, this dispute is a classic conflict of economic interests. Each side sees itself as

acting in pursuit of its own advantage. It is a dispute whose character has been strongly shaped by the present state of industrial relations law. It is unofficial because the unions do not dare to support it without a ballot. They have, perhaps without much conviction but to comply with the law, urged an end to the unofficial action. But the link between union recognition and safety is also a legal one. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974, a recognised union is given the automatic right to supervise and participate in health and safety measures taken by an employer. An unrecognised union is not.

By and large, these industrial relations-based safety arrangements work well onshore and enjoy the confidence of both sides. They provide the foundation for much of the routine work of the government's Health and Safety Executive. Noting the absence of union recognition as the basis for safety procedures on North Sea oil rigs, the energy department required a safety committee to be elected for each rig after the Piper Alpha disaster two years ago. It thereby adapted this aspect of the 1974 Act to these non-unionised workplaces but on an alternative legal basis, without the HSE.

The degree of support shown for the one-day strikes in the North Sea so far suggest that this ad hoc alternative — imposed on reluctant employers by a concerned government — has not commanded much confidence among the workers themselves. The employers should be asking themselves why. No grievance can be exploited where none exists. In an industry which is not nearly conscious enough of safety, union recognition is the obvious way of forcing employers to take it seriously.

RETURN OF THE NATIVES

Alexander Solzhenitsyn is among 23 exiled dissidents who were last week given back their Soviet citizenship by presidential decree. Mikhail Gorbachev made sure that the decision and the credit for it were his alone. He also used his prerogative to annul sentences passed against millions of victims of Stalin. In most cases this rehabilitation had perforce to be posthumous. Their suffering was unimaginable. But the exiles of the Brezhnev era are still alive and kicking.

Exile — internal or external, voluntary or compulsory, temporary or permanent — has been the destiny of many great Russians. The Tsars encouraged their critics to live abroad, while shadowing them with spies. They sent thousands more to Siberia. But the communist revolution brought a different order of magnitude and severity to the banishing of opposition.

Under the Bolsheviks, Siberian exile became tantamount to a death sentence. The surviving élite of the old Russian empire went into foreign exile after October 1917. Soon disgraced revolutionaries began to follow, often graced by Soviet agents or arrested and dogged by Soviet agents or arrested and dogged by the Nazis. More recent exiles have included much of the cream of the Soviet arts and intelligentsia.

The injustices suffered by Soviet exiles have been overshadowed for much of the past 73 years by the genocidal campaigns against the Kulaks, Ukrainians, Poles, Jews, Tatars, Balts and other large sections of Soviet society. Yet Russians consider exile a peculiarly harsh punishment. Some — soldiers, spies, intellectuals, even Stalin's daughter — found the homesickness and guilt so unbearable that they

returned. Some were never heard of again. Those who have preserved their integrity and their equipoise throughout their banishment are remarkable people.

Those who have made good in the West will, if they decide to return permanently, doubtless be feted as heroes. Writers such as Brodsky, dissidents such as Bukovsky, musicians such as Ashkenazy could all expect to be welcomed and honoured in the new post-communist Russia or the other Soviet republics.

For the less famous, however, the prospect is likely to be less enticing. As some exiles from Eastern Europe have discovered, resentment against those who have lived in the West can be whipped up by the unscrupulous, as Ion Ratiu found in Romania. Even where, as in Czechoslovakia or Hungary, former exiles were able to regain positions of trust, they have been at pains to emphasise their local roots. In the Soviet Union, the opposition parties which are assuming power in the republics have their own indigenous leaders. There are few vacancies for returning émigrés at the head of these burgeoning popular movements.

President Gorbachev's decrees come too late to help most of the victims of communism for whom they are intended. Many Soviet exiles are not included in his list. Few, if any, Russians will believe the excuses made on his behalf — that "opposition within the leadership" prevented an earlier amnesty. His decrees are too late to help him sanitise the system which disowned the bravest and best of its citizens. For most Russians, the return of Solzhenitsyn will be proof, not that communism has acquired a human face at last, but that its day is done.

Middle East build-up: summoning means to stiffen world sinews

From Mr Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield (Labour)

Sir, Surely the time has come when the UN Security Council should, as a matter of urgency, convene a Middle East peace conference. There is widespread support for the imposition of sanctions against Iraq, but considerable anxiety at the build-up of military forces outside the authority of the UN.

I suggest that a peace conference, to which all the nations in the area and the Palestine Liberation Organization should be invited, should consider:

1. Immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces to internationally accepted frontiers, in line with the UN resolutions on the Middle East, and the introduction of UN peacekeeping forces into all disputed areas.

2. Restoration of the independence of Kuwait, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and security for the state of Israel, all within internationally agreed borders, and the negotiation of permanent peace treaties between all the nations in the area, to be underwritten by the UN.

3. Establishment of a UN development fund to promote the diversion of money now spent on weapons to the needs of the people, and agreement to limit and monitor the international arms trade.

4. Negotiation of a UN oil convention to guarantee a fair return to the oil producers; security of supply for the oil consumers; an international energy conservation programme; and control over the international oil companies.

I have written to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary in these terms.

Yours,

TONY BENN,

House of Commons,

August 17.

From Dr Gerald H. Blake

Sir, It is of some interest that Saddam Hussein now wishes to comply with the Algiers Protocol of March 6, 1975, regarding the Iraq-Kuwait border along the Shatt al-Arab. The Protocol was agreed "in accordance with the principles of territorial integrity, the inviolability of frontiers, and non-interference in internal affairs."

Yours faithfully,
GERALD BLAKE (Director),
International Boundaries
Research Unit,
University of Durham,
South Road, Durham.

From Mr Clifford H. Jordan

Sir, The activities of Saddam Hussein have been rightly condemned in your columns. There has been no equivalent publication of the real condemnation which lies at the door of Britain, the United States, France, USSR and others for supplying the tyrant with sophisticated weapons without which he would be unable to pursue his unbecoming ambitions.

Yours sincerely,

C. H. JORDAN,

34 Hillcrest Road,

Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Professions and EC

From Mrs Charlotte Horsfield

Sir, Martin Jacques ("Time to open closed ranks", August 8) must surely be making a virtue out of necessity when he advocates more flexibility between the professions. The EC directive that lays down the law on this subject (89/48/EEC) goes beyond what he is recommending, wipes out the self-governing role of the professional bodies and gives to the Commission amazing powers over professional qualifications.

How it is proposed to maintain standards after next January, when the directive is due to be applied, is a mystery. Even standards of rectitude are to be harmonized (article 6(1)) and a good character certificate attested to in one member state will be valid in all the others, as would a certificate of physical and mental health.

The Olympian style of Commission proposals and Council directives could be made the subject of a thesis. The tone of voice they adopt is always authoritarian, e.g.:

"... the professional associations and organisations which confer such titles on their members ... cannot invoke their private status to avoid application of the system provided for by this Directive."

Directives are, by the way, directed at democratically elected governments by autocratic bodies over whom the electorate has no control.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLOTTE HORSFIELD,
24 Liverpool Road,
Kingston Hill, Surrey,
August 8.

Natural history cuts

From Mr J. V. G. Mallet

Sir, The Honorary Secretary of the Entomological Society and others (August 11) draw attention to the damage complacently envisaged in the Natural History Museum's corporate plan to what is, in effect, the central taxonomic data bank for the world.

Since Mrs Thatcher has recently emphasised the need for just such a data bank to monitor the effects of environmental change, one hopes that her new minister, David Mellor, will appreciate that many branches of behind-the-scenes research under threat at the museum could affect the continuing existence of a human audience to admire the front-of-house displays of plastic dinosaurs.

Curtains at a great national

From Mr Miles Copeland

Sir, I have it on good authority that Iraq specialists in the American intelligence community see your leader in *The Times* of August 15 as the most perceptive analyst yet to appear in any newspaper.

There can be no thought of "mounting" an internal revolt against Saddam Hussein. Rather, the strategy is one of building in and around Iraq an environment in which certain Iraqis, some of them in Saddam's entourage, will do the necessary. There are three stages.

The first is massive propaganda designed to impress upon the Iraqi people what Saddam has led them into. It can hardly be said that the military and economic forces we have lined up in the Gulf are there merely to show Saddam's followers the magnitude of his opposition. It happens, however, that the psychological warfare effect is the one most relevant to our basic objective.

From the beginning, American strategy has been based on an assumption that our adversary is not "the Iraqis," or even the Iraqi army, but Saddam Hussein himself. Once he goes, the Iraqi offensive is finished. Propaganda from outside Iraq can hardly bring about a nationwide popular uprising, but it can introduce tensions that Saddam's vast security system is not likely to miss.

The second is to introduce "gremlins" into Iraq, by covert actions of various kinds, will raise doubts among Saddam's supporters and cause members of his "apparatus of terror" to suspect that they are not as much on top of anti-Saddam forces as they have thought they are. They will see members of their own families, as well as previously trusted colleagues, popping up over

Rules of engagement

From Lieutenant-Commander M. J. Kay, RN (ret)

Sir, Your defence correspondent, Michael Evans, writing on rules of engagement in the Gulf (August 15), says that the rules will have been written to ensure that the Armilla Patrol warships can open fire as soon as it is clear that an Iraqi aircraft is planning an attack.

My publisher has kindly allowed me to quote from my forthcoming book on international law and seapower, as follows:

"... the generally accepted limits of international law being unequal to the demands of modern conflict where anticipatory self-defence is concerned, the naval commander is doubly vulnerable (assuming that he survives an actual exchange of weapons):

1. If his ship is hit, his career will be finished and his conscience will be burdened with the lives of his ship's company;

2. If he saves his ship by firing first, his career will still be finished; furthermore, he will be answerable under international law for his actions, although his conscience may possibly escape burden."

I continued by offering advice upon the dilemma, which recalls

Intelligent intelligence

From Mrs Hermine Wynne

Sir, In your leading article of August 9, "Intelligent intelligence," you write: "The invasion of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, martial law in Poland, the beginning and end of the Berlin Wall: almost certainly, they all surprised the British."

My late husband, Greville Wynne, an agent in MI6, brought with him from the USSR the information that the Soviets intended to build a wall through Berlin, and he passed on this information to his superiors. He told me that our own services were thinking of constantly hosing down the cement, if it were built, so that it would never set, but that the opinion of CIA was: Let them build that wall and let it be a monument to communism.

The beginning of the Berlin Wall cannot have been a surprise.

Yours faithfully,
HERMINE WYNNE,
40 Bramham Gardens,
Kensington, SW5.

Domestic violence

From Mrs Francesca Quint

Sir, It is all very well to say, with Mr Napier (August 8), that victims of domestic violence should not accept violent conduct on the part of their spouses. Of course they should not be expected to put up with it, in the same way that aggressive and destructive behaviour within or between states or communities is not tolerable and should not be tolerated.

The trouble is that the victim is by definition the weaker party,

and may have hostages. To end a bad marriage requires effort and determination, brings no positive benefit and can involve frightening risks. It is easier to treat the contrition and remorse which so often follows a bout of violence as a genuine intention to make things work, and to go along with implied or overt pressure from family and friends to forgive and try again. This can turn into a damaging habit.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCESCA QUINT,
11 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

plans of a year and a half ago may suggest a way out. There, a small sub-committee of trustees provided an umbrella under cover of which the director's damaging notion that research should or could be divorced from curatorial responsibility was quietly laid to rest.

Might not the new minister make the revision of the Natural History Museum's corporate plan by a scientifically qualified committee, in related consultation with the museum's staff, a precondition of the desperately needed increase in funding?

Yours etc.,
J. V. G. MALLET (Keeper,
Ceramics Department, Victoria
and Albert Museum, 1976-89),
11 Pembroke Square, W8,
August 13.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

growing suspect lists, and they'll begin to suspect that they are not backing a winner.

The third is to make the most of contacts that Western covert political action units have been building in Iraq since the failed coup attempt in 1973 of the Iraqi security chief, Colonel Nazam Kazzaz. Contrary to popular assumptions, when things begin to go wrong for a leader his practitioners are the first to jump off of the bandwagon. Many of them are already in contact with their counterparts in foreign security services — including the CIA specialists who trained them and they know how to meet and deal with their foreign counterparts being spotted by their colleagues.

When time comes to jump ship, they will come to us (as some, I understand, already have) so that we, except for exceptional cases, will not have to go to them. When we do meet, we will encourage them to go ahead with their coup (or whatever), but to do so for their reasons, not ours, although we will give them such back-up assistance as they may need.

In short, although I am in no position to speak for my younger friends out at Langley as they plot the demise of Saddam Hussein, I can surmise from my own experience that they will not count on opposition forces in Iraq (except, that is, to create a general atmosphere of uncertainty) but on "the Baghdad elite" (to borrow a phrase from your leader) and from those among them who can be counted on to do the job "as ruthlessly and methodically as Saddam has played with his people's destiny."

Yours faithfully,
MILES COPELAND,
3 The Green,
Aston Rowant, Oxford,
August 18.

the predicament of the USS Vincennes. The advice was to fire first and to save the ship — at least the commander would be able to look his ship's company in the eye afterwards. But the difficulty now, however, is that no amount of objective reasoning before giving the order to open fire will help the commander when he eventually answers under international law for his actions. This is because HMG's decision represents a tactical departure from the limits of international law.

There is wide and impressive precedent for such decisions, which history also insists must always be successful. In consequence, the naval commander might usefully recognise that while rules of engagement are political in their origin, they are purely naval in their interpretation. Therefore, he is the one who will actually bear responsibility if success is not complete.

There seems to be only one precedent really worth recalling at the moment — Lieutenant Calley and My Lai.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN KAY,
8 Elm Grove,
Swainswick, Bath, Avon,
August 15.

Canal restoration

From Miss Christine Thain

Sir, The official reopening of the Kennet and Avon canal (report, August 9) is a monument to the tireless dedication of the amateur visionary. We are fortunate that the species is endemic in Great Britain, for how else would worthy, needy and vital causes be so served?

Perhaps the Department of the Environment can match the commitment of the Kennet and Avon restorers and announce a feasibility study of canal restoration and extension throughout England, not only as a leisure asset and alternative transport system, but also, perhaps more radically and certainly more topically, as a water delivery system to replenish the stressed reservoirs of southern counties from the abundance in the north-west.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE THAIN,
30 Goodwin Road,
Slough, Berkshire.

Stationary parking

From Mr A. Dyke

Sir, Mr D. H. Worskett (August 13) says that the new London Underground map should show which stations provide proper and secure car-parking. Some years ago, when our car was stolen from a Tube station car park, the police advised that parking there was inviting theft and recommended parking in nearby streets.

Perhaps LT are ahead of Mr Worskett — it's just that the map shows no secure car parks because none of their car parks are secure.

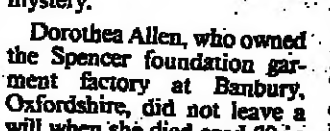
Yours faithfully,
ANDREW DYKE,
40 Compton Road,
Winchmore Hill, N21,
August 13.

Last wishes

From Mr P. J. A. Smith

Sir, Instead of having his body cremated in a bin liner, should not Mr Sam Evans (August 8) leave it to be used for medical education or research? This would not only achieve the economy in wood and fuel which he desires, but also give him the satisfaction of knowing that the final disposition of his remains will be in the hands of cheerful medical students, not professionally lugubrious undertakers.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. A. SMITH,
5 Victoria Street,
New Romney, Kent.



Second time A-levels may be tougher

Thousands of school-leavers are now into their fifth day of agonising about their future, after failing to get the A-level grades required for their higher education course.

Most will have had the bad news already: the rest know deep down what the dreaded brown envelope will contain when it arrives. They are left to decide whether to settle for another course, abandon their plans to continue in education or to try again for the right grades.

It may have been an easy choice if the results fell far short of the mark, but because offers take into account school predictions of a candidate's examination performance, the difference is often tantalisingly slight. Although examination boards will re-mark papers, the success rate is low and the cost high: about £25, unless the result is altered.

The temptation for many is to resist, but it can be a costly mistake. Grades often do not improve and, even if they do, admissions tutors may raise an original offer the second time around, although universities are reluctant to admit that they do this for resits. There is, however, no doubt the practice is widespread throughout higher education.

Sheffield University, for example, asks an average of one grade more for resits. Andrew Hindmarsh, who

is responsible for admissions, says: "There is no set rule, but departments are likely to ask for higher grades to allow for the fact that a student has had longer to master the subject and should be able to do better than someone who has had only the basic two years."

Even where there is no such policy, an applicant may find it tougher to win a place after an initial rejection. Keith Clayton, admissions officer at the University of East Anglia, says: "An increased offer may be nothing to do with resitting. Our applications are rising steadily and so are our offers. I would not stop people having another go at A-levels, but as many do worse as do better in resits."

"The sensible thing is to go where your grades allow, unless there is good reason to think you will do better a second time."

Not surprisingly, this advice is echoed by admissions staff in polytechnics and colleges of higher education, many of whose students are disappointed university applicants. Terry Rymer, student advisory officer at Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, says: "Since colleges do expect higher grades, the advantage of taking a subject again goes out of the window. Students are much better advised to explore the alternatives. Failure to achieve a grade is sometimes the key to all sorts of new opportunities."

For those determined to resist, there is no shortage of openings. Students are usually advised not to go back to the same school to repeat a course because enthusiasm can wane quickly when sitting through the same lessons. Further education colleges offer a wide range of courses and, for those who can afford them, crammers are increasingly popular. Some claim spectacular successes in increasing grades, but the tuition is not cheap. Rates vary between £17 and £26 an hour, so a full year's course can cost thousands of pounds.

The crammers arouse strong emotions and even those who work in them are critical of some practices. Chris Sivewright, director of the Oxford School of Learning, says it is not uncommon for tutors to work for as many as seven different crammers and for students to be advised to take longer courses than they need.

"We offer free tuition to anyone who fails with us until they pass," he says. "But most parents in this sector are in a high income bracket and do not even want to meet the tutors before they pay. They certainly are not as discerning as they would be when buying a new car."

Growing numbers of parents consider crammers worth the expense. The Abbey Tutorial College, for example, has been so successful at its London base that it has opened a second college in Manchester. Joanne Wilton, the new college's principal, says: "Even where offers are increased, as is likely in



Academic promise: one London college claims to push exam results up by two or three grades and in some cases from Es to As

competitive subjects such as medicine, we expect to improve our students' grades by enough to get them in. Our London college pushes up results by two or three grades on average and some students have gone from Es to As."

The only advice the experts agree on is not to rush into a decision. Local careers offices are organising special advice services and some polytechnics and colleges are operating "help lines". The clearing process starts before the end of the month, and almost half the students who used it last year found a place.

STUDENTS WHO have not yet found a place in higher education will be able to consult the first of 22 listings offering a comprehensive guide to degree course vacancies throughout the universities, polytechnics and 43 colleges of higher education in The Times on Wednesday. The service will run for a month.

Wednesday's list will cover all subjects in the polytechnics and colleges, and the first university vacancies will appear the following day. The full list of vacancies for both sectors will be published next Monday, after which they will be broken down by groups of subjects in separate listings every weekday. The information will also be available through Campus 2000, the educational computer network, until the end of September.

A degree of assistance

STUDENTS WHO have not yet found a place in higher education will be able to consult the first of 22 listings offering a comprehensive guide to degree course vacancies throughout the universities, polytechnics and 43 colleges of higher education in The Times on Wednesday. The service will run for a month.

PROVISIONAL A-LEVEL RESULTS: ENGLAND AND WALES JUNE 1990

	Grade percentages gained in each subject (1989 results in brackets)										Number sat
	A	B	C	D	E	U	N	U	N	U	
Art/Design	7.3	12.7	20.8	23.7	18.5	11.8	4.4	51.881			
Biology	7.9	13.1	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	22,205			
Chemistry	11.4	15.0	15.7	17.2	15.5	12.1	13.5	44,382			
Class Studies	12.1	15.3	15.4	17.0	15.3	11.3	13.6	42,138			
Computing	4.7	12.3	16.0	18.6	17.4	13.2	17.8	18,190			
Design	4.2	11.9	15.9	19.9	18.9	13.1	16.7	15,881			
Economics	16.1	17.4	15.1	15.0	13.7	10.7	12.1	47,268			
English	14.2	16.7	16.7	15.9	14.6	10.5	12.5	47,559			
French	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Geography	20.0	20.0	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
German	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
History	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Italian	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Japanese	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Latin	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Maths	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Music	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Other Languages	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Physics	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Religion	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Sciences	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Social Sci	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Spanish	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Technology	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Welsh	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Other sub	18.1	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.4	5.6	5.1	4,950			
Total	11.8	15.4	18.7	22.1	20.1	12.9	6.3	657,421			
	(11.4)	(15.2)	(18.4)	(21.4)	(19.3)	(12.8)	(6.1)	(642,977)			

1990 results are provisional. 1989 results in brackets are final. Percentages have been rounded to add up to 100.
These lists cover a range of related subjects. 1. Science includes all science subjects except Biology, Chemistry and Physics. 2. Other Languages includes all languages except French, German, Spanish and Welsh. A-E = pass, A-E = ungraded, U = unclassified.



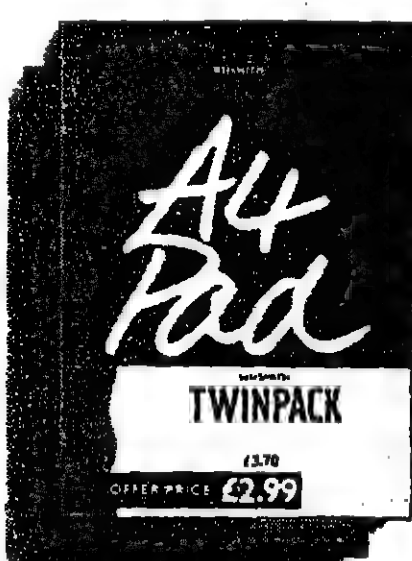
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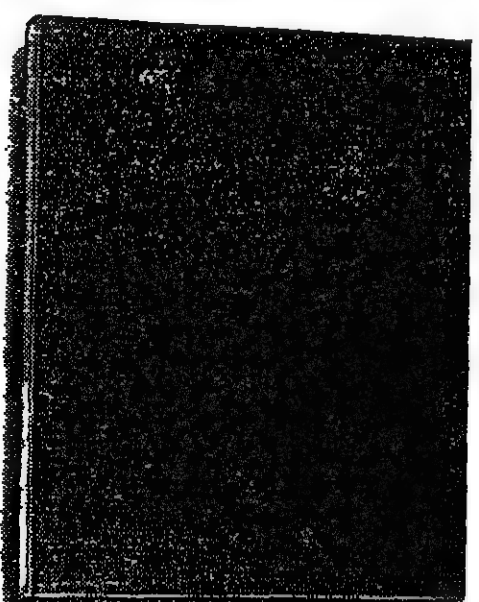
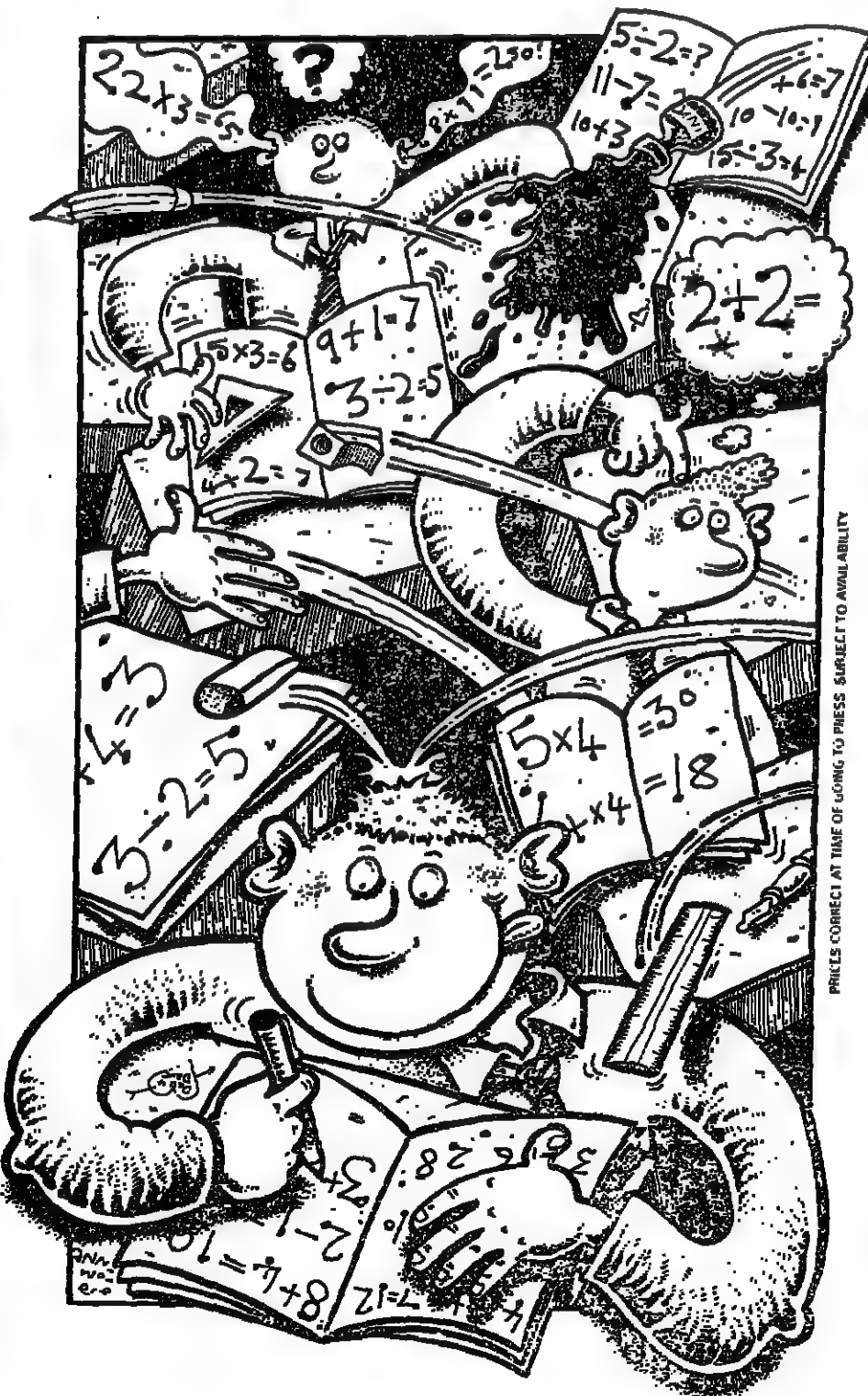
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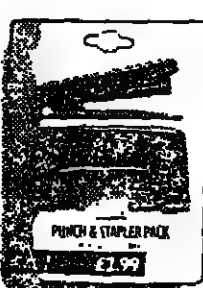
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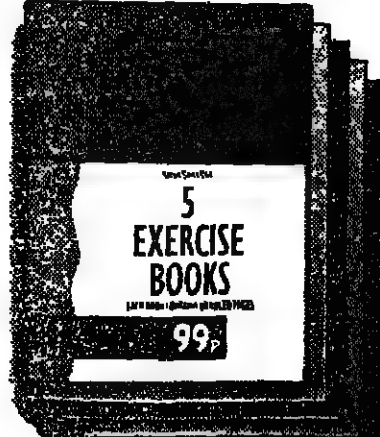
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Children can become anxious before starting in a new class. Ted Wragg offers advice

Beating classroom jitters

Every September, more than two million children either start school or transfer from one to another. For five-year-olds leaving home to spend much of their day in an infant school, or older children moving up to the senior school, some anxiety is inescapable.

Most of us can recall our own first day because images of it are etched deeply into the memory. I was the only child not to get a bottle of milk. There were 40 children and only 39 bottles of milk, so the new boy had to go without. Since then, whenever a courier announces there are 40 people on the bus, but only 39 theatre tickets, I know exactly whose name will be missing from the list.

In the weeks and months before young children start school, parents are tormented about what they should be doing to prepare them for it. There is a natural desire to make a modest start of education, perhaps do a little simple reading or writing, a few elementary sums, nothing too ambitious, just a switching-on of the ignition and a gentle warming.

On the other hand there is the fear of being too pushy or over-ambitious.

A few years ago I interviewed more than a hundred parents to ask what they did to prepare their children for school. Most said they had been told that parents who engaged in such pre-season training could damage their children. When we asked teachers what harm parents might do, we were given but one answer: parents teach capital letters and schools usually start with lower case.

Today, it is much more common for parents to be advised by teachers to think positively, to read to and with children, let them help with shopping so they learn about numbers and our money system, play family games and encourage children to talk and listen to others and to capitalise on their natural curiosity about the world around them. The only harm that could occur would be if parents made learning seem utterly odious.

Most primary schools encourage preliminary visiting by children in order to minimise the formality of the first day. Indeed,

it is common practice to phase two or three children into a new reception class at a time so the teacher can greet every newcomer.

Last September, as part of the Leverhulme Primary Project at Exeter University, we studied a number of primary classes for the first week of the school year. The class I observed consisted mainly of five-year-old beginners. Many seemed relaxed, some looked pale and tense, a few caused mayhem. Their parents were virtual replicas of the children.

The last arrival was a girl who screamed her way down the corridor accompanied by a distraught mother uttering oaths and bribes. The school had brought an extra teacher in for the day to help with difficult cases; the child promptly kicked her on the shin.

Minutes after her mother had departed, she was skilfully steered towards a table full of modelling equipment and she remained absorbed in various activities throughout the day.

When her mother arrived at

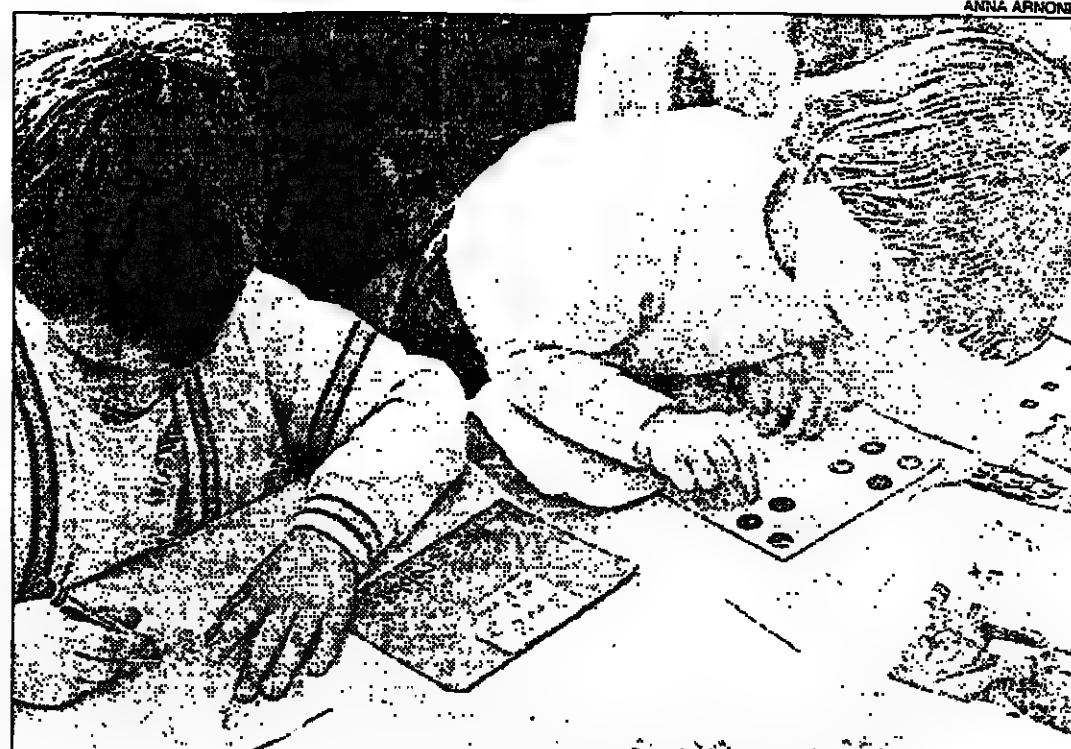
3.30, she promptly burst into tears, giving the impression, no doubt, that she had spent the day on the rack.

By the time that children transfer from primary to secondary school, they are familiar with schooling but not with their new school. In rural areas with small two or three-teacher primary schools, some pupils may move from being one of 50 to 100 pupils to being one of 1,000 or more.

The senior pupil from the primary school has suddenly become the most junior in the secondary school, unfamiliar with the rules, like a Martian landing on a rugby field. Wander off to the library to check some detail in a reference book, as you did in your primary school, and the teacher asks you why you are leaving the room or your seat without permission.

Many schools organise smooth transitions from primary to secondary. It is much more common today for secondary teachers, particularly those responsible for first years, to visit and even teach in feeder primary schools.

Open days for parents to visit



Down to school work for the first time: the prospect may fill some youngsters with fear

visit are also more frequent, and many secondary schools arrange half or full day programmes for primary school pupils. This can offer them experiences they may not have had, such as a science lesson in a proper laboratory.

The biggest fear that many pupils express on transfer to a

senior school is of bullying. Generations of pupils have gleefully passed on gruesome stories of savage initiation rites meted out to newcomers, the most persistent of which is that their heads will be flushed down the lavatory. So far as I know, no headless first-former has ever been seen in any British

secondary school, and in any case where would the head actually go?

None the less, as with bogymen and ghosts, this is not a rational matter, and both teachers and parents need to be sensitive to the fear.

© The author is director of Exeter University's school of education.

Fun and games while learning

Common sense rather than gimmicks is what parents need to give their children a good basic knowledge

MORE AND more parents see their children's education as a personal challenge. This may not please the educational purists, but most parents want their offspring to do better. An industry of early learning centres, books and kits has grown up to support this trend.

Enid Whittam, of the British Association for Early Childhood Education, says: "A lot of parents are worried about whether they are capable of helping their children master the basics and buy all kinds of gimmicks. It has become far too competitive and commercialised, when what is needed is common sense and interest."

"Reading is one area where parents can start very early. Some of these structured formal schemes, rather than being the best way, can, in fact, put many children off. What is important is that whatever you do should be interesting. They should learn that books are a source of fun and real information. When you don't know something, go

with the child and find out. When it comes to numeracy, teaching a child how to count is easy. After all, we can teach parrots to do the same. What is more important is to teach relevancy and meaning," Ms Whittam says. "When a child lays the table, the numbers of spoons can be made into a game. This way counting becomes applicable to what is in the child's life."

Research into the reading standards of six and seven-year-olds shows that what matters most is not whether parents read to their children, but whether they listen to their offspring's reading and assume something of the teacher role. To underline this finding, control tests have been done with groups of similar children in an inner city primary school. Children being heard

reading by their parents had double the reading standard of the other groups.

Ken Adams is a former schoolteacher who managed to teach his son, John, well enough to enable him to pass his mathematics A-level at the age of nine while he was at primary school. The techniques Mr Adams used have been made available in *Your Child can be a Genius and Happy* (Thorsons, £4.99). One favourite technique used in the under-two stage, which extends both vocabulary and reading readiness, is labelled objects around the house.

It starts with a few objects, door, bed, chair, window. The recognition is reinforced by discussing the label with the child. After a couple of weeks, add more labels. Naturally the labels should be placed at child's eye level. Name tags on the child's possessions, such as Jane's Bag, contribute not only to this process but the child's feelings of her own importance.

Between the ages of two and four there is a period of intense physical and mental exploration. During this time you should aim to develop the child's vocabulary, reading and certain mathematical ideas. There is no reason why some children should not be able to match, sort and put in order a few objects, although many at three will find it difficult to pair such things as socks, cups and forks.

Brick building has long been part of a child's play and it also teaches manipulative skills. As in all areas of creative play there may be times when bridge or tower building is beyond the child. If he finds it difficult, leave it and come back to it in a few weeks' time.

During the ages of three and four, Mr Adams feels that children can start to write. Long before small children attempt to copy letter shapes they need to practise controlling a pencil and the marks they can make with it. Copying or tracing a series of simple snakes, zig-zags, curls and crosses give children the pat-

terns they need to make up letters. Tracing letters and drawing them in a sand tray are good starting points, as well as writing their names.

The 18 months before a child goes to school is the time to develop language more fully. The child can choose books at the local library, extend a knowledge of words through word games and puzzles, and be encouraged to develop an interest in forming a project and carrying it through to the end.

One model parent is Greta Chaffer. Her two sons could read and write before they went to primary school. They have since sailed through secondary school and are both going on to university.

"It's important to give your children a platform," she says. "I was very serious about it and read an awful lot. I was particularly keen on the Montessori method, whereby the child learns through experience and communication, and talking to the boys intelligently was the key."

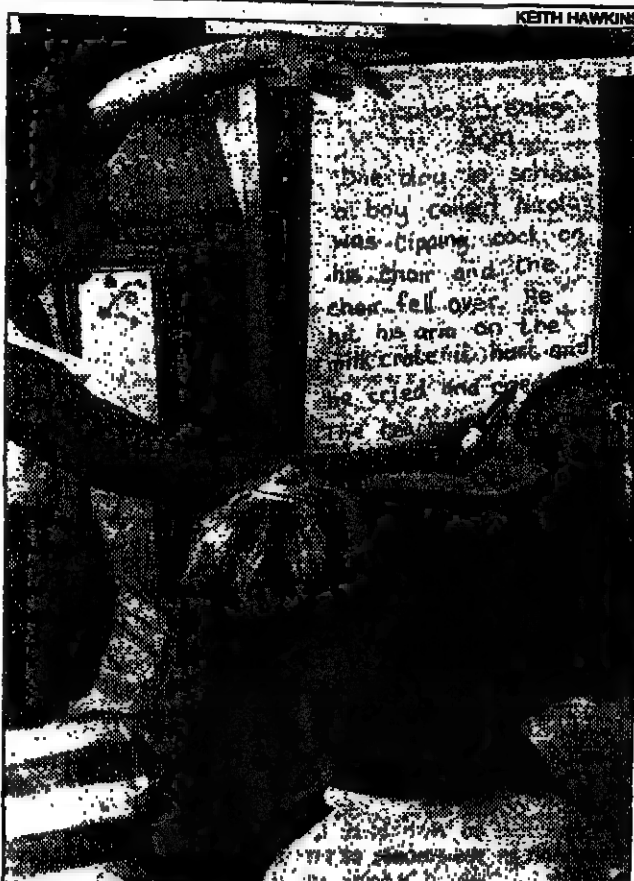
"I made them aware of everything around them: music, media, nature. An important part of the process was, where possible, to use distraction instead of displeasure if things went wrong, looking for a constructive alternative rather than showing disapproval."

One of the most important developments in educational theory in the past ten years has been the realisation that a lot of educational work is being done in the home. Teachers are realising that there should be more connections with what they are doing in the classroom and what parents are doing after school.

Teachers have, at last, realised that parents are keen to do far more and their main reason for not doing so seemed to be a lack of confidence about their own ability and a reticence in approaching schools and teachers to ask for professional advice. As parents become more confident and teachers realise they need all the help they can get, so these barriers are coming down.

HUGH THOMPSON

How should we train our teachers?..... Page 24



Letters skill: shared writing with infant pupils



Word perfect: a child reading to a nursery assistant

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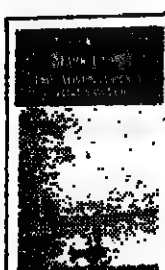


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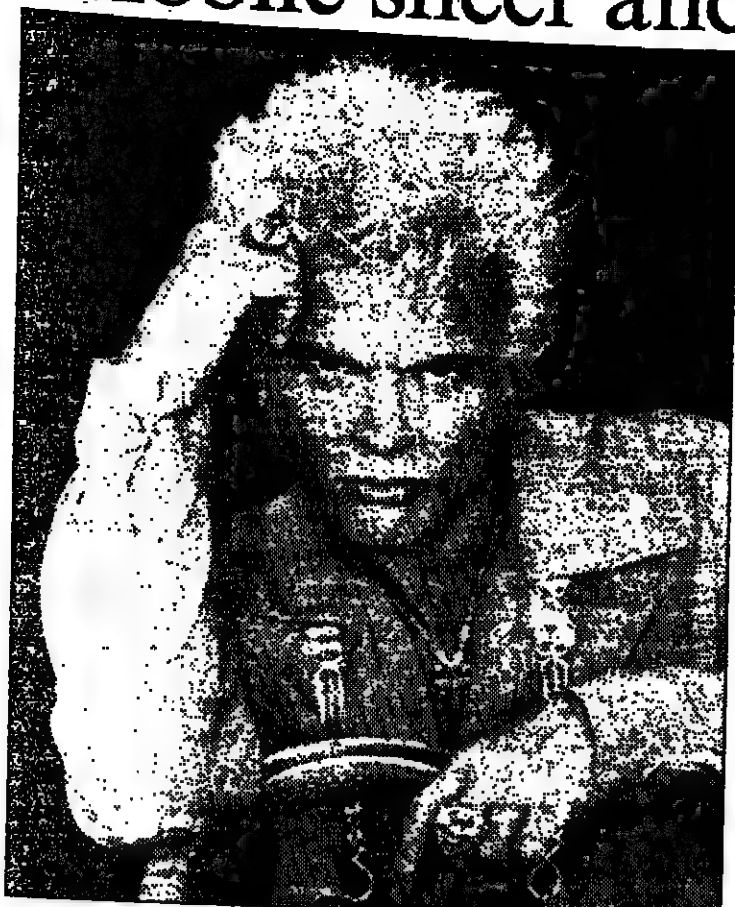
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ROCK

Mobile sneer and ultimate throb makes the Idol rich



Billy Idol: roots in the earliest, faltering days of British rock

Ask a team of Japanese robot technologists to design a rock and roll robot for the end of the 20th century and the odds are high that their creation would share many common characteristics with Billy Idol.

Bottle blond hair, leather clothes and an impressively mobile sneer; these are all components lifted directly from the rock 'n' roll textbook, but there is also the musical undertone to Billy Idol's career which might have been designed by a researcher.

"Cradle of Love", the song that recently reached the No 2 spot in the American singles chart, is a case in point. This typically brooding composition is a fast ballad, loosely comparable with the Doors' track "Light My Fire", yet executed with technological finesse and studied with references to rock 'n' roll history.

On paper, this sounds like yet another academic hybrid, concocted in the theoretical laboratory of a recording studio; perhaps this is the instinctive opinion of the British public, which has reacted with indifference to recent Idol offerings.

Once he is available for conversation about his musical inspirations, it transpires that Idol has an enthusiastic record collector's appreciation of some strange-

Fame in America, indifference at home: the strange fate of Billy Idol told by David Toop

ly compatible byways of rock. Wearing glasses and propping his leg on a table to alleviate persistent pain from a recent motorcycle accident, he is not exactly first-class rebel material, while his infectious excitement about records made 30 years ago gives him the air of a wayward librarian. Born in Stanmore, Middlesex, in 1955, he is as old as rock 'n' roll itself. When Marty Wilde was sneering the morbid lyrics to "Endless Sleep" in 1958, Billy was barely three years old.

Idol's definition of the essence of great music has allowed him to draw ideas from stylistically diverse periods of rock. His first group, Generation X, was too primitive to reveal much of his musical aspirations but once the punk phase was over, Idol went in search of this essence.

"What started to introduce me," he says, "was rock 'n' roll mixed with a controlled techno throb. That's what I liked in early rock 'n' roll — Elvis, Gene Vincent, people like that — they had such controlled rhythm that it would create a throb. Even early rockabilly was that sort of throb

music. I grew up with that sound. You heard it reflected in the technological side of disco and even things like "Whole Lotta Love".

This vision of the ultimate throb — an unlikely blend of Led Zeppelin, Kraftwerk, Giorgio Moroder, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Suicide, Can, Gary Glitter and Elvis Presley — was assisted by a chance meeting with Keith Forsey. Forsey is an English musician who has worked with the Munich-based Eurodisco producer, Giorgio Moroder, as well as the German experimental rock band, Amon Duul III. He became Idol's producer, and with a pyrotechnic guitarist called Steve Stevens they fashioned the unique Billy Idol sound which led to his such as "White Wedding" and "Rebel Yell".

Could this be the Dudley Moore syndrome? "It would be if I didn't come back here," he says. "It's always been a bit up and down in England. I think coming here and playing will help. It's been such a long time since we played here that I can imagine people wondering if it's for real, or if it's just a video they're watching."

Eddie". The name Idol, changed from Broad, also recalls a time when working class lads were dragged out of obscurity, renamed Marty Wilde or Billy Fury, and shaped into pop icons.

"That was partly the joke of calling myself Billy Idol," he says. "It was a reflection of how, in the early days of English rock, people were invented by a savagely. Everybody was changing their names as if there was a savagely telling you, 'wear leather, be Billy Idol'. It was really us doing it, making fun of it."

Now he is resident in Los Angeles, although he will return home for a British tour, opening December 13. American success seems to grow as British interest recedes. Along with the impressive showing of the *Charmed Life* album, there is a Hollywood film career developing, including a part in Oliver Stone's biopic of Jim Morrison.

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CRITIC'S CHOICE: THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current London shows can be found overleaf

NEW IN LONDON

THE DAY YOU'LL LOVE ME: Greg Hicks is a star singer paying a call on Gillian Barge and Maria Friedman. European premiere of Latin American play by José Cabrujas. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9224). Undergound: Swiss Cottage. Previews from Thurs, 8pm. Opens Aug 25, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm.

FLARE PATH: Robin Nedwell in rare revival of Rattigan's 1942 hit comedy: an RAF bomber crew and their less-than-merry life in a Lincolnshire hotel. King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1918). Undergound: Highbury & Islington. Previews from tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Aug 25, 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat and Sun, 3pm.

HAVING A BALL: Alan Bleasdale's vaudeville comedy, with William Gaunt stealing himself for the op. Preview prices said to be a snip. Comedy Theatre, Paton Street, W1 (071-857 1045). Undergound: Piccadilly. Previews Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 8.45pm, mats Fri and Sat, 6pm. Opens Aug 28, 7pm.

KILLING THE CAT: Sean Bean plays a son returning to his Northern family in David Spencer's Verity Baragat Pizzawinner of 1989. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Undergound: Sloane Square. Previews from Thurs, 8pm. Opens Aug 29, 8pm. Mon-Sat (but not Aug 27), 8pm, mats Sat, 3.30pm. Until Sept 15.

KING LEAR/A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Kenneth Branagh's productions for Renaissance Theatre, starring himself, Richard Briers, Emma Thompson, The Dream muddled and unimpressive; Lear worthy and fine parts. One week only. Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 5522). Undergound: Tottenham Court Road. Previews Mon, Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8.30pm, mats Fri, Tues, Wed, Fri, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

THE THREE CUCKOLDS: Triton Productions revive and update the bold, athletic world of commedia dell'arte. Lilian Bayliss Theatre, Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-837 4104). Undergound: Angel. Opens tomorrow, 7.45pm. Then Tues-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat, 3pm. Until Sept 1.

OUTSIDE LONDON

BATH: The Dreammaker: Ronnie Corbett flees from Carmen Silveira in frantic Feydeau farce. Theatre Royal, Seaview (0225 448844). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4.30pm. Until Sept 1.

GUILDFORD: The Circle: Stewart Granger's return to the English stage, with Rosemary Harris, Ian Carmichael in Somerset Maugham's drama about gamely antics. Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Millbrook (0483 80191). Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm. Until Sept 1.

LEICESTER: The Mystery of Irma Vep: Off-Broadway award-winning spoof Gorkin horror mystery: fog, darkness, werewolves, everywhere. Haymarket Theatre (Studio), Belgrave Gate (0533 539797). Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm. Until October 6.

TELEVISION: PREVIEW

Reality behind the hostages of war

Four years ago, Jean-Claude Raspiegas read the report of a message from a fellow French journalist who was being held hostage in Lebanon. The reporter, Jean-Paul Kauffman, had already spent 17 months in captivity. His message was that of a broken man, pleading for help from the outside world.

It galvanised Raspiegas, who began writing a series of articles about the ordeal of hostages held in Lebanon. It also led him, eventually, to start work on *The Hostages Speak*, an award-winning, two-part television documentary about the experiences of three former captives. The most moving scenes are those which show the men visiting reconstructions of the places where they were held. BBC 2 viewers who saw last week's opening programme will tonight be able to see how the former hostages have coped with the return to normal life.

"One of the reasons we wanted to make the programme," Raspiegas explains, "is that the word 'hostage' had been used so often that it had lost any sense or meaning. It had become almost banal. We felt it was important to show the experiences that really lay behind the word."

Though Kauffman is one of the trio of interviewees, the programme's scope extended well beyond Lebanon. One of the men, Baron Edouard-Jean Empain, is a French industrialist who was kidnapped in Paris in 1978. The other, Gerhard Vaders, is a Dutch journalist who in 1975 was travelling on a train hijacked by South Moroccan separatists in the Netherlands. According to Raspiegas, the men represent three distinct types of hostage: the Westerner captured in the Middle East; the tycoon held for ransom; and the ordinary individual caught up by chance in a lethal chain of events.

Raspiegas and his director, Patrick Volson, actually filmed interviews with around 20 former hostages. They also spoke to detectives, psychiatrists and mediators. But during the editing stage they decided, wisely perhaps, to concentrate on Kauffman, Vaders and Empain. The three men are remarkably eloquent. What is even more striking is that, after enduring unimaginable hardships, they seem to have emerged strong-

A French director has focused on those held captive in Lebanon. Interview by Clive Davis

ger, both mentally and spiritually. Raspiegas says he found a similar response among the other hostages. "They came through in the same way. The whole experience gave them a stronger sense of self."

In the year since the documentary was first screened on France's TF1 network, Raspiegas has continued to follow the fate of the hostages in Lebanon. In Britain he has had links with organisers of the support group, the Friends of John McCarthy, and his general impression is that the British public has been lukewarm in its support for the hostages. When Raspiegas went to a benefit evening for the McCarthy campaign at a West End nightclub, he was disappointed at the turnout. In France, he says, the overall response to hostage-taking is much more passionate.

Critics would argue that the French government's policy of negotiating with those who kidnap Westerners in Lebanon was weak or, at the very best, short-sighted. Raspiegas, however, defends the strategy. "I think it is necessary to talk. In London I met lots of journalists who would prefer to see the hostages die rather than negotiate. A Foreign Office official said almost the same thing. I have heard the argument that there is a risk of encouraging more hostage-taking. The only answer I can give is that we have obtained the release of our hostages, and no more of our people have been seized."

Whichever course is taken, Raspiegas feels the main priority is never to allow the hostages to slip from the public's mind. "Those people were taken in our name. John McCarthy and the others were not abducted because of who they were individually. They were taken because they were part of our community."

● *The Hostages Speak* Coming Home will be shown on BBC2 tonight at 8.10pm.

TELEVISION: REVIEW

Puberty by country

The sixth and last part of *All Our Children* (BBC 1) returned to the communities where the series began, to show seven youngsters arriving at the age of 12 or thereabouts, apparently the time when childhood ends. For the lucky ones (a pair from Yorkshire and Xiao in China) the transition took them to a higher grade of school. Even luckier was the Hungarian boy Zoltan, who from now on will be spending one day in 15 away from his new school working on the railway.

Daniel in Kenya and the Indian girl Bindu might also be called fortunate in that each was beginning work within the village community. All these had something to do and someone to be, and were getting on with it. Only for Fabiana in Rio de Janeiro were the shades of life's true prison-house closing fast.

School is not a high priority for her group, we were told. While her parents hurried off to work, Fabiana looked after her younger brothers and sisters, but others in her age-group were observed hanging around the shanty houses or flying kites. Fabiana expected to marry at 19 — "but not to an alcoholic" — when presumably she will spawn another generation of no-hopers, with nothing to brighten their lives but the annual chance to dance in a carnival with bunches of flowers wobbling on their heads. Carnival is said to bring excitement into otherwise drab lives: it would seem more useful to improve the life.

Up in Skipton, the lives of Cathy and James were seen to

consist of little but play. The programme's final shot showed their school coach swerving along the Dale taking them off to secondary school, but all we ever saw them do was learn ballet, ride buggies, explain the mysteries of hair gel and play football.

"They were drawn against Netherlands B," explained Dame Judi Dench, commenting sardoniously, "and the game began well." Oh, we did see the pair being fitted for school uniforms and learning to knot a striped tie with the help of diagrams, but the English way of childhood looked infinitely trivial. Of course, if an interviewer asks a friendly young girl about the currently favoured way to set hair, what can she do but answer?

At least James was luckier than Daniel whose passing-out was marked by ritual circumcision. Even his absent sister returned home for the occasion, so Dame Judi assured us. At one moment it looked as if the cut would be made before our eyes but this was not to be. The camera moved to an exterior shot of a clinic and it was time to go to China.

Necessarily selective, David Brown's programme had no conclusion to draw except that children age according to their cultures. Xiao, studying maths in her free time, could still play Grandmother's Footsteps while Bindu starts a laundry round and learns to sew dresses. The glimpses of foreign lands were pleasant to watch and, in that context, made life in North Yorkshire look weirder than most.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ARTS FUNDING

The sound and the fury

Simon Tait reports on the growing unease over the future funding of some of London's most famous arts organisations



Going to GLA? London Symphony Orchestra (above) with the conductor Michael Tilson Thomas and London Contemporary Dance Theatre (below) with Paul Lillard in *Gone Without Saying*



There is a first-class row about to come to a head in the capital's arts world. It concerns the question of who pays for — and therefore, to a certain extent, who controls — some of the most influential cultural organisations in Britain.

If the recently appointed arts minister, David Mellor, takes up the devolution ideas of his predecessor Richard Luce, more than 40 London-based arts organisations could soon find themselves in the hands of Greater London Arts. GLA is a regional arts authority, hitherto mostly concerned with community and ethnic arts projects. It has virtually no experience in funding major companies and, perhaps more disturbing to the companies involved, has a reputation for placing political and social considerations above artistic ones.

Only flagships like the National Theatre and the Royal Opera House, along with touring companies which have no London base and no significant local authority subsidy, are certain to continue to be funded directly by the Arts Council. For the rest, GLA can look forward to taking over a host of internationally renowned clients. There could be as many as 47, including the likes of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, the Royal Court Theatre and the London Symphony Orchestra. The clients, on the whole, do not seem too happy about the prospect.

"It's a bit like a local clay pigeon shooting club taking over from Nato," says the administrator of one potential GLA client who, typically, did not want his quote attributed in case he finds himself applying to GLA for his company's livelihood. Another administrator, Roger Taylor of the Rambert Dance Company, says of the Arts Council and GLA: "They are two different boards with different priorities."

Mik Flood, the new director of the ICA, enjoyed a good working relationship with GLA in his previous job as director of the Watermans Arts Centre in west London. But even he admits to having "doubts about GLA's arts officers being able to do either artistic or strategic planning for organisations with international responsibilities."

Anthony Everett, secretary-general of the Arts Council, has written to its London clients, telling them to state their views about devolving funding to the regions. They are losing no time in replying and establishing their claims to national, rather than regional, status.

The Royal Philharmonic, for instance, believes it should stay with the Arts Council because it is a national and international touring company. English National Ballet (London Festival Ballet until last year) is about to send its reply to the Arts Council, saying it has no permanent London base, and in any case its new nomenclature should speak for itself. After receiving a 17-per-cent funding increase this year, the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square is eager to remain in the Arts Council's embrace. The London Symphony Orchestra, based in the Barbican with a £1.2 million subsidy divided equally between the Arts Council and the City of London, has an international reputation which, according to its managing director Clive Gillingham, takes it beyond regional considerations. In any case the complexities of its "matching grants" year ago, would make it difficult to transfer funding responsibilities to GLA.

Other companies have a more difficult case to make. On the face of it, the London Contemporary Dance Theatre is ripe for shifting to GLA, since it has a home in London (the Place Theatre in Euston) that includes a school and theatre, and the capital's name in its title. Janet Eager, its executive director, does not agree. "We are definitely a national and international company. We spend about four weeks of the year in London, the rest touring, and we

are working on special relationships with regions such as the south west and Yorkshire, so I would not expect this company to be GLA's first interest. It doesn't make sense to go there and we think we've made a strong case for staying with the Arts Council."

GLA, meanwhile, is in the process of becoming GLAB, or the Greater London Arts Board. As such, it will be one of the 10 new, enhanced regional boards taking over from the 12 old associations under Richard Luce's scheme. In 1986, GLA underwent a major change when it took over the Greater London Council's arts funding; there will be no such obvious change this time, says Jonathan Brill, GLA's chairman for the last four years.

"I have every faith in the ability of the people here to give the best possible service," he says. "What we have to do is upgrade the expert advice we get from outside. It's no good expecting people to give their services for nothing any more; we're going to have to pay them."

He envisages a panel of about 24 experts and assessors retained to cover the entire range of London's arts activities. "We're must find the money to do it; I reckon about £100,000 should be enough, perhaps a bit more. If it gets to £250,000 we could be in difficulty." Already, though, Brill and GLA's director, Trevor Vibert, are envisaging that their £9 million purse for this year will be increased by £5 or £6 million. "The

other thing we must do is rationalise the financial system. We have 34 different funds we have to draw on, and that can't be sense," says Brill.

He also admits that GLA has to get rid of the "Loony Left" image which has made it a source of ridicule in some arts circles. "We seem to be sending out the wrong signals. 'Loony Left' is a tabloid phrase, not one I'd ever use, but we are not the Stalinist organisation some people seem to think we are, and though there may be a tail-back to the early days of the association (it was founded in 1966), we are very different now. We are not going to force the wrong decisions on people, and we have to rethink our strategy as we meet and talk to potential clients."

Yet only four months ago, when GLA launched its Arts Plan for London which included a series of nine booklets giving funding guidelines, the result appeared to be widespread confusion and derision. "I can't think of anyone in the entire arts community who has worked out how to operate them," says Rambert's Taylor.

One of the booklets is an "application record form" which, among other things, asks about "the sexual orientation of the group served". Another, on a code of practice for people with disabilities, insists on an equal opportunities policy "relating to the employment of people with disabilities at all levels, in every aspects of the arts (e.g. performers, directors, administrators, technicians, designers)".

Dance companies were dumbstruck, but, according to Brill, GLAB will not dictate artistic policy. "We're here to support. That was meant to be a questionnaire about audiences, not an application form, and of course we don't expect dance companies to have one-legged ballerinas. But there's nothing wrong with an equal opportunities policy and we'll stick by that."

The Royal Court's general manager, Graham Cowley, summed it up: "We all believe in equal opportunities, but if someone tried to dictate artistic policy with things like that, frankly we'd tell them to get stuffed."

The crunch will come on September 26 when the Arts Council meets to draw up a list of devolvable clients. Then the fast talking will really start.

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REVIEWS

Thunder but without a storm

ROCK

Monsters of Rock
Castle Donington

HEAVY metal fans are traditionally stereotyped as long-haired, drug-crazed delinquents. But those who attended this year's Donington festival, the focal point of the heavy metal calendar, seemed surprisingly tame. Perhaps that was a reflection of the bill. In the past, acts such as AC/DC and Guns N' Roses have attracted a hooligan element. But when Thunder took the stage at 2pm they could have been addressing a high-school hop.

The mellow, good-natured atmosphere continued until late in the evening when Whitesnake dispatched a two-hour set that set the seal on Donington's 10th anniversary. Rock 'n' roll. Thunder-style, is slow-burning melodic rock reminiscent of early 1970s bands such as Free. The Quireboys also plunder from this era, although more unashamedly. If Rod Stewart was less of a genial gent, he might consider suing for breach of intellectual copyright. For everything about them sounds like the Faces, from the gravelly vocals to the swinging rhythms. Still, it is clear that they will be around for some time yet.

If the Quireboys, with their headbands and Regency togs, have something of a glam rock aura, then Poison are prime practitioners of 1990s glam. However, their musical influences are deployed with more subtlety, mix-



Boston band Aerosmith: recent songs greeted rapturously by the young audience

ing Californian metal with pop-rock and punk. Poison were the perfect prelude for Aerosmith, the Boston band who, for the past two decades, have been trying to gain entry into that elite rock pantheon occupied by the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin. In the past they have headlined in front of audiences of 450,000 but troubled private lives have pushed them to a few rungs down the ladder. Now Aerosmith 90, a model unfuelled by drink or

drugs, is clawing its way back. Singer Steven Tyler, whose huge lips have given him a "Jagger lookalike" label, was outstandingly acrobatic, vocally as well as visually. Although the youthful nature of the crowd meant that the songs from recent albums were greeted more rapturously, Aerosmith also scored in the humour department, their witty lyrics matching Tyler's speckled rock coat which makes him resemble a graying Black Forest

gâteau. But when the former Zeppelin member Jimmy Page joined them on stage for the encore, there was an indication of their musical prowess too. In contrast Whitesnake sounded dull and leaden, a throw-back to the days when heavy metal was dubbed dinosaur rock. In order to flourish beyond its cult status, heavy rock requires such things as humour and melody.

MIKE NICHOLLS

THEATRE

Fringe shows
Edinburgh

CALL it the *Till Death us Do Part* syndrome, after the raucous British TV series that crossed the Atlantic to become the *Funniest Fringe*. American comic dramatists have an awful habit of taking hard, rough subjects and rendering them squishy. And for several minutes Tom Griffin's *Boys Next Door* promises to be a textbook example of that process.

We know the play succeeded off-Broadway, always a warning sign. We quickly learn it involves the mentally damaged, people easy to sentimentalise. It even opens with barmy Arnold bustling cutely in from the supermarket with enough cereal to feed himself for months, and being greeted with a gift by loopy Lucien: five volumes of *The Agricultural Yearbook*.

Yet the evening is far from

mawkish. Even when lumbering Norman is shy wooing squid Sheila with doughnuts, Griffin does not sacrifice honest observation to the affection he clearly feels for his people. Again, crazy Barry may cut unsuspecting punters into paying him for hilariously spurious golf lessons; but when his neglectful father visits, the result is not just serious but cathartic, landing him in hospital, maybe for keeps. Nor does Jack, who looks after these men, relent in his determination to abandon them for a less taxing job. There is finally no doubting the vulnerability and isolation of the characters deftly played by Allan Corder, Richard Corder and the rest of Rob Mulholland's cast.

This is presented at the Assembly Rooms by the American Festival Theatre, which has already brought several transatlantic works to Britain. *Curl Up and Dye* comes to the Traverse and the Market Theatre, Johannesburg, and has the unmistakable throb of a play whose finger is on the socio-political pulse. Yet this is not another fiery

Wozz Albert. It is subtler and more interesting: a look at the collapse of apartheid from the stance of a hairdresser's salon in a suburb in social decline and racial flux.

Susan Park wrote it, and herself plays a hairdresser whose frock, cardigan, fingerlings, shoes, lips and skin all contrive to be different shades of pink. This lacquered personage takes an ambiguous and probably representative view of the blacks. She disapproves of their progress; she treats the customers among them with respect, if rather condescending respect; she has a natural rapport with some of them, notably her underpaid factotum.

The play ends in maelstrom, but what it optimistically suggests is that the divisions between white and black are often more in the head than in the heart. Lucille Gillwald's overwrought production does, however, need to cool down a bit if it is effectively to convey this idea.

The Traverse is its usual busy place this Festival. Per Olav Enquist's *Hour of the Lynx*, a

touching if pretentious portrait of a boy murderer, and James Kelman's *Hardie and Baird*, in which the prisoners are 19th-century radicals waiting to be hanged, are worth seeing mainly for their tense central performances, both of which come from a gangling boy, carrot-toothed young actor called Simon Donald. His command of the stage is impressive, as is that of Robert McIntosh in Raymond Cousse's *Pig Play*.

In the latter case it badly needs to be, since this is a one-man, one-hour, show which draws wry but specious analogies between trapped, compliant swine and trapped, compliant humanity before reaching a climax in which the details of slaughter are gruesome described by their victims. To be McIntosh plays it from inside a rainbow-coloured sty, with an energy that leaves him looking thinner and presumably less marketable than when he began. At the end, the audience may feel a bit like that too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DANCE

Hotel Pro Forma
Royal Museum,
Edinburgh

LIKE spectators peering into the deep foundations of a building site, the audience in the Royal Museum of Scotland lean over the railings of two tiers of balconies in the main hall to watch the Danish group, Hotel Pro Forma, performing on the floor below them. Except, that is, for a few who, contending on the distortion of perspective that is the main feature of the production, add an extra twist of their own by gazing up to where it is reflected in the glass roof high above.

Illusion is the whole point of the show. It takes place on a brilliantly lit white strip set in surrounding black. The performers wear black, white or grey; the only colour comes when a small curve of orange light makes its way slowly from one end to the other. The trick is that, whether the performers are standing up or

lying down, the spectator's viewpoint makes them appear upright. Consequently, they can seem to effect impossible balances or to reverse their base, so that what is up for one is down for another.

Three of the group concentrate on this, while a man at one end reads part of the English translation of a long poem (or perhaps group of poems) by Søren Ulrik Thomsen which gives the work its title. *Why does night come, mother*. Perhaps in Danish it does not sound such gibberish, or perhaps it is only that I lack the soul to appreciate it.

This does not matter too much, because what the ear concentrates on is a setting of the text for soprano by Karl Age Rasmussen. Eva Hey Thysen sings this marvellously, live and with pre-recorded tape to redouble some passages. The beauty of tone she achieves through a wide range of sound is the more extraordinary because while singing she also takes a full part in the action.

Towards the end, when a little white pyramid made its jerky way from one end of the performing space to the other, there were

giggles from some spectators. This made me realise how intently and seriously everyone had accepted it until then. As a spectacle, therefore, the show must have succeeded by the intensity, care and skill of its assembly under the direction of Kirsten Tomas Dehlin. Afterwards, however, I was left wondering what it had given us, other than unfamiliar optical illusions and the sound of a beautiful voice.

Strangely, the Korean National Classical Music and Dance Company, performing at the same venue, has only one dancer among 13 musicians. However, her two solos are a pure delight. For each, she wears a long dress; her feet are never seen, yet the spectator can tell they are never both off the ground at once, and she travels hardly any distance.

Her court dance is so reticent that the climax comes when she turns round three times and gives a half smile. But her slight droppings and inclinations, raising her arms, flicking a sleeve or putting one hand behind her back, achieve a result as beautiful as a picture drawn with just two or

three strokes of a brush or pen. For what is called a folk dance, she exchanges her elaborate coloured dress for plain white, and introduces more movement as much as two or three yards to one side. This is extremely stylized art, great effect from little means.

The programme names the technical crew and managers, and dozens of sponsors, but none of the performers, so I cannot give credit to her or the musicians. These, wearing equally splendid apparel, play a variety of instruments in many modes, but two numbers stand out.

First, a very old military march, stately and episodic, solemnly done by men standing to attention while they blow their strange horns or conches, or bang drums and symbols. Finally, four percussionists, with drums or gongs, start their 30-minute riff with what seems a climax of speed and sound, and then build steadily from there, piling one peak on another. What rhythm, what energy, what fun. Even a sedate Edinburgh audience grew exhilarated by the end.

JOHN PERCIVAL

NEW RELEASES

DE HARD 2 (15): Action-packed but relentlessly easy to take along around, with Bruce Willis's cop trying to save Washington airport from another crop of hijackers on attack plane. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

IMMORAL HAS LEFT (12): Jimmy Fallon story of family life and adolescent love, modest comedy by Sherry Stinebaugh as a teen-aged mother of love. A lusty feature by director Francesco Archibugi. (MCA Home Video, 01-437 0171)

L'ATLANTIDE (16): Jean YVES's enthralling French classic from 1934 - a lyrical, superbly filmed tale of love and war, a classic, memorably performed by Jean YVES and Michel Simon. (MCA Home Video, 01-437 0171)

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II (15): A sturdy comedy sequel to the first, with some amusing jokes at the scientist's expense. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

BLACK RAINBOW (11): Mike Hodges' superbly filmed tale of a young man's love affair with a woman who is a lesbian. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

BLIND FURY (15): Fully featured action-adventure starring a Japanese samurai series with Rutger Hauer as a blind Vietnam veteran who is fighting the war. (MCA Home Video, 01-437 0171)

THE BOOST (11): Cautionary tale about a man's obsession to become a film star. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

CANADA MAN (15): George C. Scott's nostalgic tale of a small Canadian town, an appealing tale in the movies. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS (15): Woody Allen's engaging portrait of a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

CITY BABY (12): John Waters' juvenile musical comedy about the life of a young woman who is a lesbian. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

DAYS OF THUNDER (12): Stocker's racing drama from the brains behind *Top Gun*. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

DICK TRACY (12): The blockbuster of the year - a dazzling job, at thought director. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

ASSURED PERSON (15): A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

AFTER THE FALL: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

BARBARANS: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

BURN THIS: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

THE CRUCIBLE: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

A DREAM OF PEOPLE: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

GASPAR: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

HENRY IV: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

MOONLIGHT: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

RETURN TO THE FOREBODEN: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: A comedy about a man's life and misadventures. (Columbia TriStar, 01-437 0171)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (P) on release across the country.

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● TELEVISION CHOICE CHRIS PETIT/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

THE FROWSE

HOSPITALITY

Passions high at guilty verdict in 'wilding' trial

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHEN the foreman of the jury in the Central Park jogger case announced the verdict on the first count — not guilty of attempted murder — one of the teenage defendants' supporters began to applaud. But the clapping was soon silenced when the other verdicts were read, in descending order, to a court that had been waiting 10 days for the jury to make up its mind.

Anton McCray, aged 16, Yusuf Salaam, also 16, and Raymond Santana, aged 15, were all convicted of raping and assaulting the slight, young Salomon Brothers investment banker beaten senseless when she went for an evening jog in Central Park on April 19, last year. They were also found guilty of attacking two other joggers in the park that night in a spree of wanton violence with up to 30 other youths that came to be known as "wilding".

The attack and the subsequent 10-week trial has left New York deeply divided, with blacks charging racism and whites seeing confirmation of their nightmares of gang-rape by mobs from the ghettos. The ugliness was evident at the courtroom to the very end, even though the verdict finally came after 7 pm on Saturday evening.

When the white woman prosecutor, Elizabeth Lederer, walked out of the courthouse she was harangued by a throng of black men. "The devil herself," one shouted. "The devil she's going to pay for it. Devilish bitch."

"The case should be tried in the courtroom, not of the streets," she insisted. "I don't think this was a racial case. It troubles me that the city is so divided."

Several white women, concerned that the question of race had replaced rape at the centre of the trial, thanked her. But as she left, surrounded by bodyguards, the demonstrators continued to heckle, accusing the jogger of seeking sex in the park.

The jogger, an ambitious Wall Street banker who was not named

in the press except in several black-owned publications, was in the northern end of Central Park on her nightly six-mile run when she was attacked. She was dragged about 70 feet into the woods, gang-raped and hit repeatedly with a brick and pipe, and then left unconscious.

Prosecutors said the three teenagers convicted at the weekend were part of a gang of as many as 30 black and Hispanic youths who rampaged through the park that night, harassing at least nine people. Three other teenagers will be tried later this year for taking part in the assault on the jogger.

Although the woman lost three quarters of her blood and was in a coma for two weeks, she recovered sufficiently to resume work — and jogging — within eight months of the attack.

The highlight of the trial was when the jogger, who has been promoted to vice-president at Salomon Brothers, broke her silence and took to the witness stand. Although she said she had no memory of the attack, she described how it had caused her lasting effects — trouble with balance and sight, no sense of smell, and a six-week stretch of amnesia.

Despite video-taped confessions by two of the defendants and a written admission by the other, the jury spent 10 days in deliberations, the last three jurors convincing one hold-out who believed that one of the accused was innocent.

Jurors also took three days to consider the attempted murder charges, according to one of the panelists, Charles Nestorick. They finally decided to acquit because they believed the teenagers did not intend to kill. "Youths that age are not well-versed in how many blows it takes to kill someone," Mr Nestorick said.

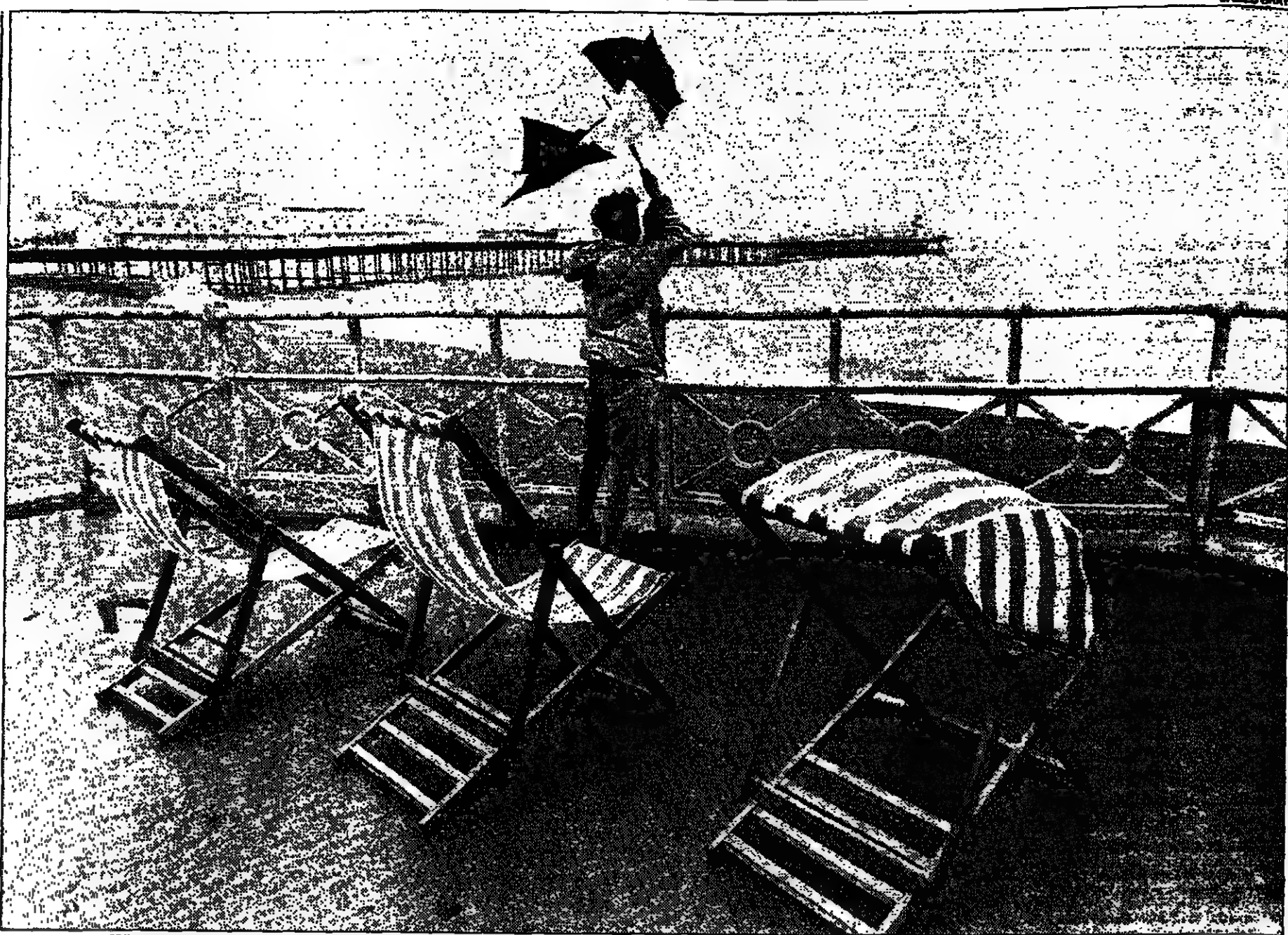
As juveniles, the convicted youths each face five to 10 years in prison when they are sentenced on September 11. The maximum sentence would have been no heavier even if they had been convicted of attempted murder.

In a statement after the verdict, Mayor David Dinkins said the attack "seared the soul of every decent New Yorker". He said: "We should re-commit ourselves to building a city and forging a society in which such heinous crimes do not occur."

But, as usual, his appeal appeared to fall on deaf ears in this city of the *Bonfire of the Vanities*. Residents at the tower-block in Harlem where the youths lived expressed doubt about the verdict. "They probably beat the lady up, but they didn't rape her," Gerald Damons, aged 15, told one reporter. "It was just 'Hi and bye'. That's what they do to white people."



Elizabeth Lederer: harangued by blacks as a 'devilish bitch'



When the wind blows: an indomitable holidaymaker braves the rain and gusts along the deserted beachfront at Brighton, East Sussex, yesterday

East German government collapses

From GIRDAR STEICHEN IN BONN

EAST Germany's coalition government collapsed yesterday amid calls for immediate reunification.

The leadership of East Germany's Social Democrats (SPD), furious over the dismissal of two of the party's ministers, voted to end the SPD's shaky alliance with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the prime minister. "The grand coalition has ended," said Wolfgang Thierse, head of the East German SPD.

The party's leaders met for two hours yesterday before announcing the decision. The move robs Herr de Maizière's government of a parliamentary majority and has the potential of complicating the final steps towards German reunification.

East Germany's growing economic and political crisis has prompted urgent calls for swift unification to end the turmoil.

In a rare display of political union, the Social Democrats in West Germany and Bavaria's right-wing Christian Social Union urged the East German parliament to vote for merger with West Germany on Wednesday.

"East Germany is on the verge of collapse and there is only one solution — quick accession," said Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD's candidate to challenge Helmut Kohl for the chancellorship in the

elections scheduled for December. The East German Social Democratic party leaders said yesterday they would ask the Volkskammer (parliament) to approve a merger to take effect in mid-September, after the conclusion of the final "two-plus-four" talks with the allied powers.

The merger had been planned for October 14, when East Germany holds state elections. However, the chaos that followed the German economic union on July 1 has prompted calls for an earlier date.

The West German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, a top aide to Herr Kohl, said Bonn was prepared to act even if the Volkskammer approved a merger

this week. "This is not the best way towards unity but it can be done," Herr Seiters said.

The East German government has struggled with the crisis since Herr de Maizière, a Christian Democrat, dismissed his SPD finance and agriculture ministers last week. Angry SPD leaders said the dismissals made it impossible for the party to be represented adequately in negotiations on a unification treaty currently being worked out between East Berlin and Bonn. If the treaty cannot be ratified there is little alternative an abrupt merger.

A provision in West Germany's constitution makes it possible for East Germany to ask simply that it be joined to the Federal Republic.

But such a vote would relinquish all further control over the unification process to West Germany.

The Bundestag, West Germany's parliament, would have to approve a transitional law to govern the country until national elections are held in December.

Herr de Maizière has appealed to Volkskammer deputies not to scuttle the unification treaty, saying it is the East German government's responsibility to protect the interests of the nation's citizens until unification is achieved.

The SPD accuses Herr de Maizière of attempting to blame their party for the economic chaos that has followed German monetary union.

Britain is lashed by heavy rain

By ALAN HAMILTON

MOST of Britain yesterday experienced its heaviest rainfall for more than two months, but it made little impact on weeks of drought. The wettest areas were South Wales and the South-west, with Cardiff receiving nearly an inch and Devon and Cornwall three-quarters of an inch.

Electricity supplies to more than 850 homes in Dorset were cut off when water affected faulty insulators on an overhead line and heavy rain washed pollution from the surface of the M6 motorway on to nearby farms, contaminating water for cattle.

Water companies said yesterday that the weekend rain would make little difference to the supply shortages.

Roger Mutton, aged 57, of Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire, died trying to save his seven-year-old son who was washed by a wave from the pier at Amble, Northumberland.

An accident involving a lorry, coach and four cars caused a 15-mile traffic jam on the M4 motorway near Reading yesterday afternoon. One person was reported to be seriously injured and others were trapped for four hours.

Courts to single out habitual criminals

Continued from page 1 made to protect the public from serious harm.

"The government has now decided that crown courts need to have the power to deal with the small number of persistent violent and sexual offenders who become more and more dangerous over time and who experience has shown do pose a real risk to public safety."

Mr Patten will also seek to allay public anxiety about persistent

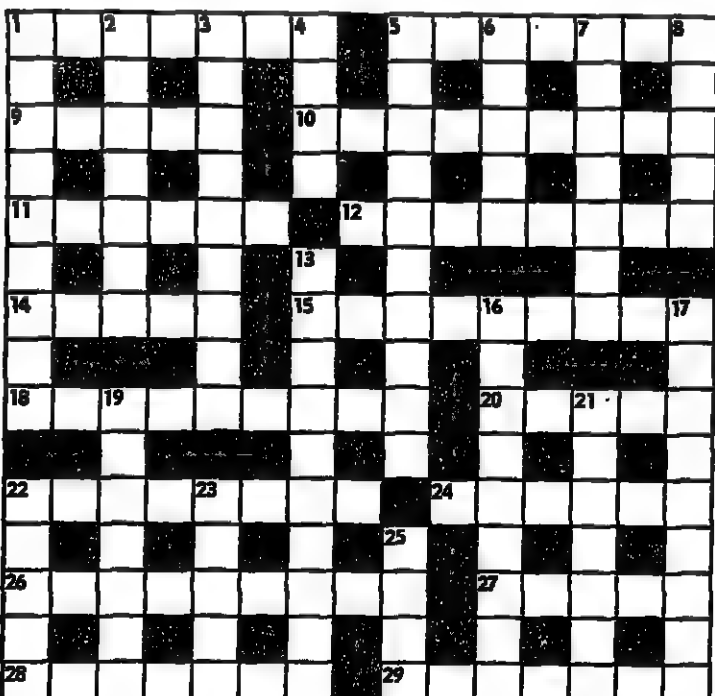
violent and sexual crime by pointing out that it forms only 6 per cent of recorded offences.

He will add that chances of the police catching such offenders are "very high indeed". According to his figures, last year 92 per cent of all murder cases were cleared up, and 99 per cent of attempted murders. Three-quarters of rapes and sexual offences in 1989 were also solved. In incidents of gross indecency against children the clear-up rate was almost 90 per

cent, and in abductions it exceeded two-thirds.

The white paper in which the change was foreshadowed, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*, was seen by many as the boldest initiative for a generation in reforming criminal justice. Its proposals were aimed at reducing the number of non-violent offenders sent to jail and ensuring that those who did go to prison served a greater part of their sentences in custody by limiting parole.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,377



- ACROSS**
- 1 Burn to make about a thousand (7).
 - 5 Talk when caught by a mad character (7).
 - 9 A little one, pale and listless in the country (5).
 - 10 Ostlers — steady fellows (6-3).
 - 11 Players ordered off (6).
 - 12 Hide the contents of study (8).
 - 14 Try some relish (5).
 - 15 Curses on finding boxes dumped at the riverside (9).
 - 18 Broadcast — it need not show restraint (9).
 - 20 Not a place for the man who's bent? (5).
 - 22 The language of politics, said Disraeli (8).
 - 24 Wanted to stop holding contest (6).
 - 26 A vessel, ancient or otherwise (9).
 - 27 Seldom converse (5).
 - 28 Got up and had breakfast, looking quite pink (7).
 - 29 An Italian writer given musical instruction (7).
- DOWN**
- 1 Called for housing at one time in vain (9).
 - 2 Former journalists, say (7).
 - 3 At fifty a woman imbibes tea that's very strong (9).
 - 4 Simple midshipman (4).
 - 5 Little beasts may well come

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- URDEE**
a. An Indian language
b. The Phoenician letter D
c. Poised
- DVORNIK**
a. A Russian concierge
b. A vodka layabout
c. A peasant
- YLEM**
a. The prime substance
b. A small island
c. The Nordic Underworld
- CALIPYGIAN**
a. Pic-breeding
b. Full of cunning tricks
c. Having a nice bottom

Answers on page 16

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dorset T. 733
M-ways/roads Dorset T. 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Angles 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

The northern isles of Scotland will be cloudy for much of the day with outbreaks of rain. Northern Ireland, Scotland and England will have sunny periods and showers. In the north and west the showers will be frequent, heavy and prolonged, perhaps with thunder. The south and east will be mainly dry although there might be the occasional shower. Outlook: mainly dry in the South; wet in the North.

ABROAD

WEDDAY: 1=thunder; 2=dizzle; 3=fog; 4=sun; 5=clear; 6=partly; 7=cloud; 8=rain; 9=snow; 10=ice; 11=drizzle; 12=rain; 13=cloud; 14=rain; 15=cloud; 16=rain; 17=cloud; 18=rain; 19=cloud; 20=rain; 21=cloud; 22=rain; 23=cloud; 24=rain; 25=cloud; 26=rain; 27=cloud; 28=rain; 29=cloud; 30=rain; 31=cloud; 32=rain; 33=cloud; 34=rain; 35=cloud; 36=rain; 37=cloud; 38=rain; 39=cloud; 40=rain; 41=cloud; 42=rain; 43=cloud; 44=rain; 45=cloud; 46=rain; 47=cloud; 48=rain; 49=cloud; 50=rain; 51=cloud; 52=rain; 53=cloud; 54=rain; 55=cloud; 56=rain; 57=cloud; 58=rain; 59=cloud; 60=rain; 61=cloud; 62=rain; 63=cloud; 64=rain; 65=cloud; 66=rain; 67=cloud; 68=rain; 69=cloud; 70=rain; 71=cloud; 72=rain; 73=cloud; 74=rain; 75=cloud; 76=rain; 77=cloud; 78=rain; 79=cloud; 80=rain; 81=cloud; 82=rain; 83=cloud; 84=rain; 85=cloud; 86=rain; 87=cloud; 88=rain; 89=cloud; 90=rain; 91=cloud; 92=rain; 93=cloud; 94=rain; 95=cloud; 96=rain; 97=cloud; 98=rain; 99=cloud; 100=rain; 101=cloud; 102=rain; 103=cloud; 104=rain; 105=cloud; 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● SPORT 30-36

BUSINESS

MONDAY AUGUST 20 1990

City Editor
John Bell

Boost to BA's Berlin ambitions

BRITISH AIRWAYS' attempts to boost its operations from Berlin, possibly through a stake in the East German national airline Interflug, have received an unexpected boost from the German government.

A senior member of the cartel office, which has been studying a plan by Lufthansa to take a 26 per cent stake in Interflug with the West German government taking 51 per cent, said in an interview that this would be unfair to other foreign carriers, and discussions should be allowed to continue with BA.

Wary of being curtailed by a new, unified German airline, BA has applied for a wide range of routes from Berlin including Moscow, Prague, Budapest and Rome, while also seeking permission to fly to and from Schönefeld, the East Berlin airport.

This has angered Lufthansa, which told the cartel office it was unrealistic not to expect the West German airline to become closely integrated with Interflug.

Detailed negotiations between Interflug and BA could start again almost immediately if the German government backs the cartel's decision.

BT sell-off claims dismissed

GOVERNMENT sources were playing down weekend reports that a sale of its remaining 49 per cent stake in British Telecom, worth £8.9 million at current market prices, would take place next March.

A trade department spokeswoman said this was "pure speculation". The government is known to be keen to complete the privatisation of the company, half of which was sold off six years ago, to maximise revenue that could be put towards tax cuts. A body of opinion within the Conservative party is also keen to make it more difficult for BT to be re-nationalised by any future Labour administration. At present, a future Labour administration would have to buy just 2 per cent of the company to bring it back under Whitehall control.

But a source close to the privatisation programme said there was no more than a 50-50 chance the sale could take place before the next election.

GrandMet deal reaches Lilley

THE Grand Metropolitan/Elders IXL pub-for-breweries swap comes under the scrutiny of the trade secretary, Peter Lilley, tomorrow.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report which arrives on Mr Lilley's desk is not expected to pass the deal unconditionally. In his first ruling on competition policy since replacing Nicholas Ridley, Mr Lilley may therefore require some amendment of the terms of the agreement when he makes his announcement in several weeks.

THE POUND

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar
1.9185 (+0.0470)
W German mark
2.9711 (-0.0036)
Exchange index
95.3 (+0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1678.9 (-64.1)
FT-SE 100
2176.9 (-56.9)
New York Dow Jones
2644.80 (-71.78)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
28786.72 (-542.83)

TOURIST RATES

	From	To
Australia	2,485	2,485
Canada	2,485	2,485
France	2,485	2,485
Germany	2,485	2,485
Italy	2,485	2,485
Japan	2,485	2,485
Norway	2,485	2,485
Sweden	2,485	2,485
Switzerland	2,485	2,485
USA	2,485	2,485
Yugoslavia	2,485	2,485

Rates for single departure from only as approved by Barclays Bank PLC. Offered rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 126.8 (July)

Banks take harder line on Soviet trade finance

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH banks are adopting a much tougher attitude towards trade finance with the Soviet Union after continued payment delays and general uncertainty about the Soviet economy. The banks have reassessed the risk profile of the country, until last year thought to be one of the safest countries with which to do business. Small companies have also found it harder to obtain credit for deals involving the USSR.

A spokesman for National Westminster Bank said: "We have seen the USSR present a greater risk than previously. We will continue to do finance deals that are for UK exports, which are backed by agencies such as ECGD [Export Credits Guarantee Department]. However, in view of the heightened risk, we continue to be very selective in our lending

policy." Other banks are understood to have adopted a similar position.

British companies will obtain finance for joint ventures and direct investments in the Soviet Union only if they can put up collateral against the loan. NatWest, involved in more business with the Soviet Union than most of its UK competitors, said: "There is a distinction between lending to joint-venture companies, where we would be reluctant to assist because of the risk in the USSR, and lending directly to UK companies for investment in a joint-venture company, where security would be provided by that company."

A senior manager of another British bank said commercial bank lending to the Soviet Union was drying up. Export finance was almost exclusively available through schemes backed by export credit, administered by four

British banks in conjunction with the ECGD, the UK government agency responsible for insuring overseas trading risks. Project finance was effectively non-existent.

A spokesman for the trade department said: "We would still advise companies to act cautiously. Make sure, when you sell to the Soviet Union, that you get paid first."

The four ECGD export-credit schemes, with NatWest, Barclays Bank, Midland Bank and Banque Paribas, whose credit lines amount to £180 million, are about to expire in the next few months. It is understood the schemes are not taken up to their full extent, which might suggest caution by the banks. It has also been suggested that the schemes have been devised too generously, based on exaggerated expectations of Anglo-Soviet trade. ECGD backs a proportion of the total risk, usually 85 per

cent. However, the residual risk encourages banks to back only those deals where prompt payment is at least a possibility.

● The Soviet Union has dumped \$1 billion of gold on Western markets in the space of a week or two, said Nikolai Fyodorov, Russian federal justice minister, in an *Izvestia* newspaper interview.

"This [amount] is unheard of. Usually \$2 billion or \$3 billion [of gold] are sold in a year," Mr Fyodorov said. He did not say exactly when the gold deliveries were made.

Dealers in Europe say the Soviet Union has recently been depositing large amounts of gold with Western banks as collateral for loans. Last month, Credit Suisse said Moscow had delivered as much as 300 tonnes of gold to London and Zurich in the first five months of this year.

Lowndes stores opening delayed

By MARTIN WALLER

THE administrators at Lowndes Queensway, the furniture and carpets chain that collapsed last week, have lost their battle to open the chain's 416 branches today to allow customers who have paid for goods to take delivery.

Instead, the stores, which were to have reopened on Friday, may now start trading again tomorrow or Wednesday. But it is unlikely even then that the administrative receiver, Ernst & Young, will be able to give customers who have put deposits on goods categorical assurances that they will receive their money back.

The sticking point has been the attitude of three unnamed Lowndes suppliers, a carpet-maker and two furniture manufacturers, who have refused to guarantee further supplies without promises of payment, which the administrators felt unable to give.

Also still in doubt is the operation of the insurance bond scheme that is supposed to cover customers who have handed over money. Ernst & Young is keen to hear from any such customers to assess whether the scheme can be operated in full.

But there has been some progress over the weekend. The two leading credit card companies, Visa and Mastercard, are thought to have agreed to allow their cards to be used in Lowndes stores when they reopen.

The reopening has also been delayed by the need to brief regional managers on new trading arrangements since the appointment of administrators last Wednesday. They will attend a meeting at Lowndes's head office today.

A spokesman for the administrators said last night they were quite optimistic that the stores would open tomorrow or Wednesday.

This week is also likely to see the announcement of the first redundancies among the group's 4,000 staff. Ernst & Young hopes to sell the group as a going concern and is keen to keep all the stores open. But the spokesman conceded that "a few dogs" among the stores may have to go.

The administrators hope to have the 11 heliports set up for Lowndes customers working by the start of normal business hours this morning.

Sir Phil Harris, the chain's founder, is believed to have made an offer for a dozen outlets or more and is thought to be interested in the Harris Carpets name.

Saudis ready to lift output by 2m barrels

By MATTHEW BOND

SAUDI Arabia looks certain to increase its oil production by up to 2 million barrels per day, making up about half the production lost because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil minister, said the increase would go ahead with or without the agreement of fellow Opec members. Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates are also expected to increase their production by 500,000 bpd each.

The increase would stabilise oil prices and provide encouragement for the world's

nervous financial markets. However, any serious military escalation in the Gulf is likely to send spot oil prices above \$30 a barrel.

The Saudis have set fellow Opec members a 48-hour deadline in which to agree an increase in production. Mr Nazer said: "What we want to do is go through Opec, but if they refuse to meet, they leave us no alternative." He wants a meeting today or tomorrow.

Several other Opec members oppose an early meeting and would prefer that the West draw on its stocks. Algeria, which has the Opec presidency, said holding an emergency meeting risked

causing the collapse of the cartel.

But Mr Nazer said: "We do not see how an organisation can simply turn its face to the other side and say there is no crisis."

World oil prices have risen by about 40 per cent since the invasion hit supplies. On Friday, October Brent in London closed at \$26.75 a barrel amid concern that Opec would be unable to agree an increase in production. In America, the benchmark price for September crude is closer to \$29.

The Saudi decision to press ahead without an agreement could allow prices to stabilise in the \$25-30 a barrel range, according to Paul Spedding, oil analyst at Kleinwort Benson, the securities house. "As long as we stay at this sort of phoney war stage, it should keep a lid on prices at \$30 a barrel."

Equity markets could take some comfort from the increase in production. However, Iraq has said that any unilateral act by Opec members to boost production would be considered an act of aggression.

The key event for dealers in London will be how the American stock market reacts to the news. Dealers on Wall Street are worried that the American economy is close to recession. The Federal Reserve meets this week to consider lowering interest rates in an attempt to fuel growth. At one point on Friday the Dow Jones industrial average fell almost 70 points on worries about the economy and the Gulf.

Global oil stocks remain high at about 100 days but Mr Spedding said panic restocking could push oil substantially above \$30 a barrel.

UK economy 'will weather oil shock'

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE impact of the Gulf tensions on the world economy will be less than in either of the two previous oil shocks, even if there is full-scale military intervention, according to a leading academic.

Of the seven largest world economies, Britain and Canada will survive best, states Professor Douglas McWilliams, chief economic adviser to the CBI, in a report published today.

Interest rates around the world would rise in response to oil price increases. But Britain, already in a tight anti-inflationary squeeze, would have scope to cut rates in 1991 even in the event of prolonged and partly effective economic sanctions against Iraq.

If the conflict is over by

December, the CBI expects oil will fall back to \$20 a barrel. If war is avoided but economic sanctions remain in force, oil could cost \$30 a barrel by 1993.

If war does break out, oil could cost \$40 a barrel in 1991 before falling back to \$20 by 1996 as the benefits of a crushing Western victory boost the world's economy in the second half of the 1990s.

Interest rates are likely to fall to 11 per cent by the end of next year, according to *Barclays Economic Review*. In an optimistic commentary on the UK's economic prospects, Barclays forecasts that the Middle East troubles will not cause outright recession.

Gift-edged, page 20

Hanson bid doubts grow

JOHN Wakeham, the energy secretary, returns from holiday today at the start of a week that could make or break the government's planned privatisation of the power industry.

Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, will this week put an offer on the table that could trigger a full-scale auction of PowerGen, the country's second-biggest electricity generator. The most credible second runner is a management buyout consortium.

But reports over the weekend supported suggestions that the Hanson offer might be pitched at an embarrassingly low level for the government.

Expectations last month, when Hanson's involvement was officially revealed, were



Wakeham: crucial week

that the first offer would be pitched higher than £1.5 billion, allowing prices offered in the subsequent auction to run up to £2 billion. Since then world stock markets have

tumbled, and remarks by Sir Gordon White, Hanson's chief in America, over the weekend suggested the group was prepared to consider offering less than £1.5 billion.

Martin Taylor, Hanson's vice-chairman in London, yesterday refused to comment on Sir Gordon's remarks.

The energy department says no serious offer can be ruled out, but a bid at about the £1.3 billion the government initially hoped to raise by a public flotation would not be acceptable.

The government's difficulties would come with an initial Hanson offer of about £1.4 billion. This would set too low an underwriting price to an auction.

Playing America's air fare roulette

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

PICKING the lowest American air fare in the disruption that has followed the oil price surge is now more like playing roulette than selecting special deals, according to travel agencies.

American airlines, torn between the need to keep pace with oil price rises and hang on to shrinking US passenger traffic, are allowing fares to rise and fall faster than a jet in turbulence.

"We just start every day with a fresh look at the fares screen," said one travel agent. "Every day is different. Often the fare that was there yesterday has disappeared. You feel like you're working in a restaurant offering a fare of the day."

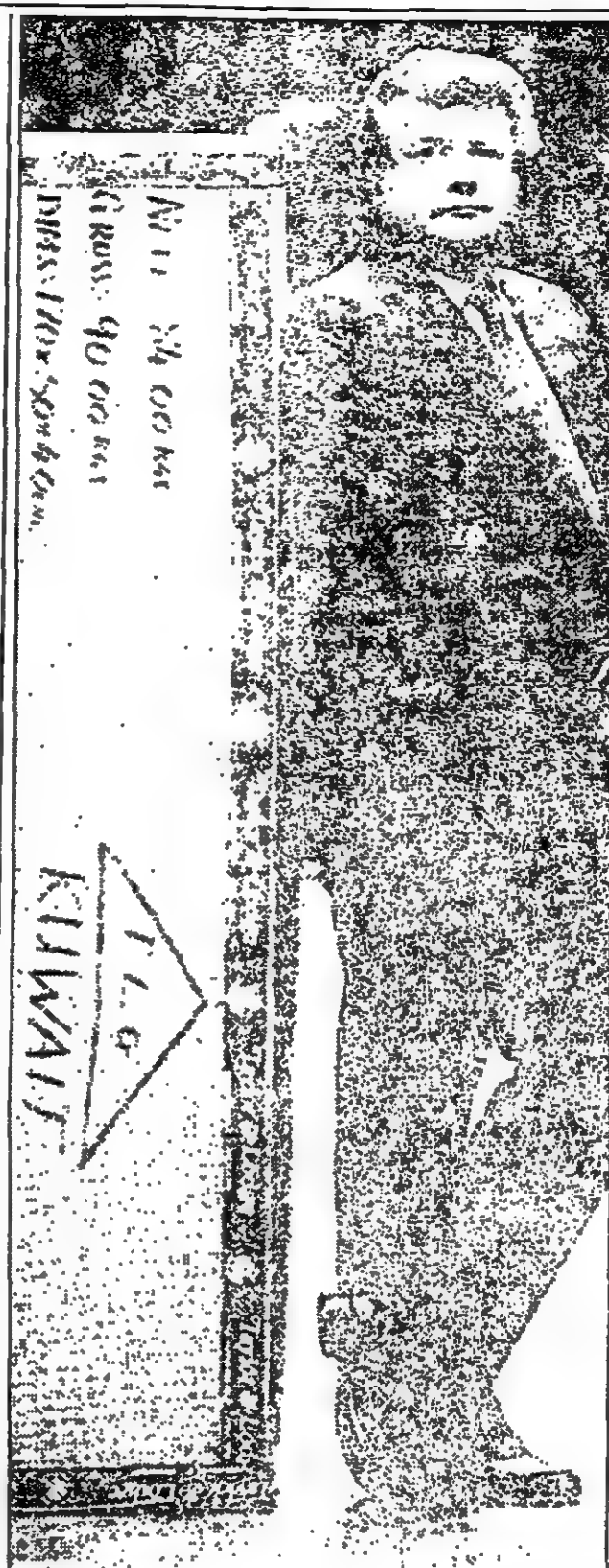
Although the agents lose nothing from this, they do have trouble explaining sudden price changes to clients.

One agent told of a passenger who booked a return trip from Los Angeles to New York in July, to fly in late August. At the time it was booked the flight cost \$468. Yesterday, a seat in the same plane

on the same day at the same time could be bought for \$298. An agent with the Travel of America agency said: "Booking these fares is just like playing roulette, except you get better odds in Las Vegas. It's just a complete gamble whether the passenger gets the lowest fare at the time they book it. Otherwise, they could be sitting next to someone who's paid \$200 less."

Within the past three weeks, Northwest Airlines has announced an \$8 fuel surcharge on flights, then rescinded it a few days later and substituted a 10 per cent fare increase. A few days after that Northwest cut the increase to 5.3 per cent. Then, when Trans World Airlines and Eastern announced fare cuts of between 15 and 40 per cent last week, Northwest re-programmed the computers again to match them. As part of their fare package, TWA added a \$20 fuel surcharge on international flights.

Airline Economics, the Washington-based independent aviation consultant,



Packed up and nowhere to go: Kaye and a cargo for Kuwait

£10m boost for National Savings

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE high rate of inflation and a new issue of index-linked certificates combined to put National Savings back into the black in July.

The fifth issue of index-linked certificates, guaranteeing to pay the inflation rate plus 4.5 per cent over five years, attracted £260.6 million after its launch on July 2.

This helped the department to a £10.2 million inflow during the month. When interest on savings was added it was able to make a net addition to government funding in the month of £206.9 million. In June, the deficit was £173.6 million.

The balance outstanding in National Savings products at the end of July was £35.7 billion compared with £36.8 billion last year.

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GILT-EDGED

Markets could face a long night before dawn breaks

Yamalchi International

a week, well ahead of the group's best expectations, said Peter George, chairman of Ladbrokes Racing.

5519-521 (22.705-2720)

5519-521 (22.705-2720)

Silver, 85-19-8-21 (82-705-2720)

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	NIMM Comp	Electronics	
2	South Inds	Industrials A-D	
3	Town Centre	Property	
4	Tax Homes	Building/Roads	
5	Evans of Leeds	Property	
6	Ward Higgs	Building/Roads	
7	Harley & G	Building/Roads	
8	Carling	Banking/Discount	
9	Transporex	Transport	
10	Widening Office	Drainage/Stores	
11	Ultramar (as)	Oil/Gas	
12	Wilkes (James)	Industrials S-Z	
13	Barr (AG)	Food	
14	Bank Bros	Food	
15	Clark (Matthew)	Food	
16	Sheffield Ind	Building/Roads	
17	Ones Abroad	Industrials	
18	Cullis	Food	
19	Hepworth	Industrials E-K	
20	Body Shop	Drainage/Stores	
21	Aut Oil & Gas	Oil/Gas	
22	Alcon-Eze	Industrials E-K	
23	Harland Simon	Electronics	
24	Porter Chadburn	Industrials L-R	
25	Oil Search	Oil/Gas	
26	Powertec	Industrials L-R	
27	Brand-Wake	Industrials A-D	
28	Thord Mile	Industrials S-Z	
29	Woodco	Oil/Gas	
30	AB Food (as)	Food	
31	GGP	Banking/Discount	
32	Goal Pet	Oil/Gas	
33	Bleasheim Exhib	Newspapers/Pub	
34	Advest	Industrials A-D	
35	Wholesale Fittings	Electronics	
36	Shell (as)	Oil/Gas	
37	Cole Bros	Banking/Discount	
38	Newmark (Lous)	Electronics	
39	Morrison (W)	Food	
40	Bodycorp	Industrials A-D	
41	Black (Peter)	Industrials A-D	
42	Alumax	Industrials A-D	
43	Asa Beverages	Food	
44	Russek	Industrials L-R	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

The winners of the weekly £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize are Mr George Hogan, of Bodmin, Cornwall, and Mr Logan Holmes, of South Croydton, Surrey.

Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDEX-LINKED	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Electricals	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Building, Roads	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Chemicals, Plastics	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Drapery, Stores	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Hotels, Caterers	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Industrials A-D	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Electricals	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Food	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Financial Trusts	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Food	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Food	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Food	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Food	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Dividend
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalisation and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end September 7. Settlement day September 17. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Capitalisation	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
113.2m	Cardinal Nat	291	-1	25.3	8.7	9.5
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Capitalisation	Company
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face a long
own break

Billard; J R Simmonds;
re: G C Soman, 61

[illegible]

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Social Sciences
 Class II (Div 2): K L Chaltoner; A M Donnelly; P D A Nutall; C R Bay; J B

[illegible]

Class II (Div 2): L J Auchterlonie: E
Bassie, K L Colligan: A L Dorothy: A
Hay F C Holman, D M Mackay, L J
Robertson: A Shaw: A M Suttie: A
Wito
Class III: R K Jenkins: A J Pinnell
Cornford: D A Hewitt, E J Kirkup, C
A Lightly: J A McKay, A E Mitchell
F Mower: C E C Payne: J F Pratt, J L
Scanlan, C A Scott, M W Smith, C V
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Class II (Div 2): I M Brown: J C

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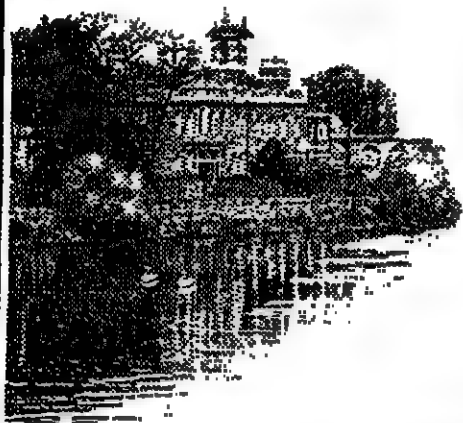
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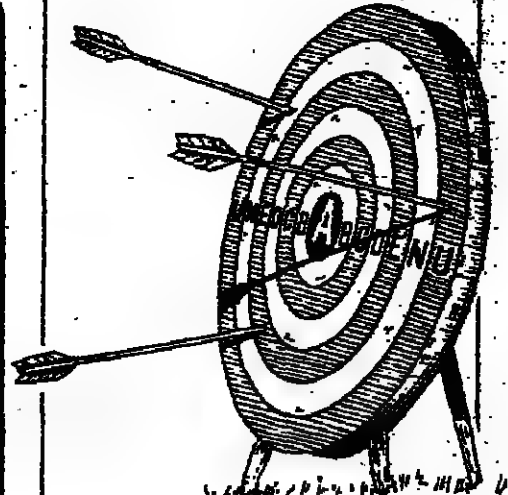
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A good sense of imagination.

Barnes shrugs off spiteful jeers

PUNCEBAST: Dividends will be low with 13 score draws and four no-score draws. No exams required. Some Italian companies may be concerned.

YACHTING

470 judges tear up first-day placings

Services

RUGBY LEAGUE

Davies magic steals a show sure to warm Welsh hearts

By KEITH MACKLIN

Widnes 17-12 Wigan 18

DESPITE the leaden skies and teeming rain, which could have ruined the occasion as a propaganda and promotional exercise, rugby league officials were delighted with the attendance of 11,193 at the Vetch Field, home of Swansea City football club.

David Howes, the public affairs executive of the Rugby Football League, said: "We had projected an attendance of 12,000 on a fine day, and to get just below that figure on a dreary afternoon fully justified bringing the CIS Charity Shield to South Wales."

"Had the weather been good the attendance would have been nearer 16,000, and between 7,000 and 8,000 of the 11,000 crowd were from this part of the world, with just over 3,000 coming from ticket sales in Widnes and Wigan."

To add to the joy of rugby league officials, the match was stage-managed for a rugby union audience. Jonathan Davies returned to the valleys to steal the show in the spectacular style that was always his trademark. He scored three

tries, one of them a typical 80-metre dash after picking up a loose ball in his own 22, and he landed a brilliant first-half conversion from the touchline into the teeth of a fierce wind.

To complete an occasion tailor-made for rugby union spectators, John Devereux got a try on his return to South Wales, and Martin Offiah scored a typical short sprint touchdown to crown his reputation in South Wales.

For good and final measure all the Wigan points came from Franco Botica, the former All Black, with an opportunistic touchdown off a kick through, and two goals.

The awful conditions made handling difficult, and the match suffered as a demonstration platform for open rugby. However, Widnes frequently rose above the elements to produce superb running play, and their five tries were all beautifully conceived and executed.

Davies got his first following smooth handling from right to left, Myler making the half break and Davies selling a dummy to Offiah before diving over. His second was the 80-metre dash through a scattered Wigan defence, and the third was a piece of typical cheek. Taking the ball virtu-

ally at a standstill on the Wigan 22, he again shaped to pass to Offiah, but instead accelerated past the cover to the corner.

Offiah's try came from a strong break by the former Tongan rugby union forward, Emodi Koloto, and Devereux dived over in the right-hand corner after half a dozen swift and sure passes along the Widnes line.

Wigan, who took the opportunity to blood several reserves and the obviously gifted but still inexperienced Botica, will be largely unconcerned by defeat, since players of the stature of Hanley, Goodway, Gregory and Hampson were missing, and Edwards played only half a game following his return after a broken jaw. Widnes, however, appear to be approaching top gear already. However, their second row forward, Paul Hulme, broke a thumb in the first half.

Widnes: 1. Davies (3 tries); 2. Offiah (1 try); 3. Devereux (1 try); 4. Myler (1 try); 5. Edwards (1 try); 6. Hulme (1 try); 7. Gregory (1 try); 8. Goodway (1 try); 9. Hampson (1 try); 10. Botica (2 goals); 11. Davies (1 try); 12. Offiah (1 try); 13. Devereux (1 try); 14. Myler (1 try); 15. Edwards (1 try); 16. Hulme (1 try); 17. Gregory (1 try); 18. Goodway (1 try); 19. Hampson (1 try); 20. Botica (2 goals); 21. Davies (1 try); 22. Offiah (1 try); 23. Devereux (1 try); 24. Myler (1 try); 25. Edwards (1 try); 26. Hulme (1 try); 27. Gregory (1 try); 28. Goodway (1 try); 29. Hampson (1 try); 30. Botica (2 goals); 31. Davies (1 try); 32. Offiah (1 try); 33. Devereux (1 try); 34. Myler (1 try); 35. Edwards (1 try); 36. Hulme (1 try); 37. Gregory (1 try); 38. Goodway (1 try); 39. Hampson (1 try); 40. Botica (2 goals); 41. Davies (1 try); 42. Offiah (1 try); 43. Devereux (1 try); 44. Myler (1 try); 45. Edwards (1 try); 46. Hulme (1 try); 47. Gregory (1 try); 48. Goodway (1 try); 49. 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Edwards (1 try); 696. Hulme (1 try); 697. Gregory (1 try); 698. Goodway (1 try); 699. Hampson (1 try); 700. Botica (2 goals); 701. Davies (1 try); 702. Offiah (1 try); 703. Devereux (1 try); 704. Myler (1 try); 705. Edwards (1 try); 706. Hulme (1 try); 707. Gregory (1 try); 708. Goodway (1 try); 709. Hampson (1 try); 710. Botica (2 goals); 711. Davies (1 try); 712. Offiah (1 try); 713. Devereux (1 try); 714. Myler (1 try); 715. Edwards (1 try); 716. Hulme (1 try); 717. Gregory (1 try); 718. Goodway (1 try); 719. Hampson (1 try); 720. Botica (2 goals); 721. Davies (1 try); 722. Offiah (1 try); 723. Devereux (1 try); 724. Myler (1 try); 725. Edwards (1 try); 726. Hulme (1 try); 727. Gregory (1 try); 728. Goodway (1 try); 729. Hampson (1 try); 730. Botica (2 goals); 731. Davies (1 try); 732. Offiah (1 try); 733. Devereux (1 try); 734. Myler (1 try); 735. Edwards (1 try); 736. Hulme (1 try); 737. Gregory (1 try); 738. Goodway (1 try); 739. Hampson (1 try); 740. Botica (2 goals); 741. 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Edwards (1 try); 926. Hulme (1 try); 927. Gregory (1 try); 928. Goodway (1 try); 929. Hampson (1 try); 930. Botica (2 goals); 931. Davies (1 try); 932. Offiah (1 try); 933. Devereux (1 try); 934. Myler (1 try); 935. Edwards (1 try); 936. Hulme (1 try); 937. Gregory (1 try); 938. Goodway (1 try); 939. Hampson (1 try); 940. Botica (2 goals); 941. Davies (1 try); 942. Offiah (1 try); 943. Devereux (1 try); 944. Myler (1 try); 945. Edwards (1 try); 946. Hulme (1 try); 947. Gregory (1 try); 948. Goodway (1 try); 949. Hampson (1 try); 950. Botica (2 goals); 951. Davies (1 try); 952. Offiah (1 try); 953. Devereux (1 try); 954. Myler (1 try); 955. Edwards (1 try); 956. Hulme (1 try); 957. Gregory (1 try); 958. Goodway (1 try); 959. Hampson (1 try); 960. Botica (2 goals); 961. Davies (1 try); 962. Offiah (1 try); 963. Devereux (1 try); 964. Myler (1 try); 965. Edwards (1 try); 966. Hulme (1 try); 967. Gregory (1 try); 968. Goodway (1 try); 969. Hampson (1 try); 970. Botica (2 goals); 971. Davies (1 try); 972. Offiah (1 try); 973. Devereux (1 try); 974. Myler (1 try); 975. Edwards (1 try); 976. Hulme (1 try); 977. Gregory (1 try); 978. Goodway (1 try); 979. Hampson (1 try); 980. Botica (2 goals); 981. Davies (1 try); 982. Offiah (1 try); 983. Devereux (1 try); 984. Myler (1 try); 985. Edwards (1 try); 986. Hulme (1 try); 987. Gregory (1 try); 988. Goodway (1 try); 989. Hampson (1 try); 990. Botica (2 goals); 991. Davies (1 try); 992. Offiah (1 try); 993. Devereux (1 try); 994. Myler (1 try); 995. Edwards (1 try); 996. Hulme (1 try); 997. Gregory (1 try); 998. Goodway (1 try); 999. Hampson (1 try); 1000. Botica (2 goals); 1001. Davies (1 try); 1002. Offiah (1 try); 1003. Devereux (1 try); 1004. Myler (1 try); 1005. Edwards (1 try); 1006. Hulme (1 try); 1007. Gregory (1 try); 1008. Goodway (1 try); 1009. Hampson (1 try); 1010. Botica (2 goals); 1011. Davies (1 try); 1012. Offiah (1 try); 1013. Devereux (1 try); 1014. Myler (1 try); 1015. Edwards (1 try); 1016. Hulme (1 try); 1017. Gregory (1 try); 1018. Goodway (1 try); 1019. Hampson (1 try); 1020. Botica (2 goals); 1021. Davies (1 try); 1022. Offiah (1 try); 1023. Devereux (1 try); 1024. Myler (1 try); 1025. Edwards (1 try); 1026. Hulme (1 try); 1027. Gregory (1 try); 1028. Goodway (1 try); 1029. Hampson (1 try); 1030. Botica (2 goals); 1031.

James has a £66,000 lunch

By MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

MARK James yesterday completed a successful defence of the NM English Open when, with a putt of 15 feet for a birdie at the first extra hole, he overcame Sam Torrance in a sudden-death play-off on the Belfry course at The Belfry.

It was a wonderfully sporting finish between two Ryder Cup colleagues who seem to reserve epic performances for a venue which is deservedly becoming recognised as one of the finest in Britain.

The thousands who gathered for the final round witnessed a finish of pure theatre, with James and Torrance wriggling past a faltering Seve Ballesteros to hole putts on the last green, which ended the courageous challenge of David Feherty.

Feherty had established the target with a 68 for a score of 285 and James and Torrance, who took two putts from the back of the green for a birdie at the 17th, each stood at three under par on the 18th tee. Both players struck good drives, followed by solid approaches, although James left his at 25 feet from the hole, some ten feet outside that of Torrance.

When James holed, it ended the hopes of Feherty. Torrance, however, was not to be denied. First, he sportingly shook hands with James. Then, on the green where he won the Ryder Cup for Europe in 1985, he calmly holed with his broom-handled putter to complete a 73 to the 75 of his rival, so that they finished level with scores of 284, four under par.

There is only one hole at which to start a play-off at The Belfry and that is the 10th. Some of the excitement came in the knowledge that, with the wind against, neither player could afford to be aggressive.

It was right that the tournament should be won with a birdie, as it was, although Torrance will rue his ball not dropping into the 10th hole during the third round on Saturday before the permitted ten seconds allowed by the rule book. It cost him a penalty shot. If it had dropped, he might have won for the first time since 1987.

James won the Dunhill Masters earlier this season and he won three times in 1989. "I never expect to win," he said. "I just hope I'll do a few things right. I really didn't feel like playing today after the two-hour delay because of the rain. I would have preferred an



Cutting up rough: James, willed by the gallery, extricating himself from a spot of trouble in yesterday's final round at The Belfry

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	418	4	10	301	4
2	348	4	11	430	4
3	465	4	12	235	4
4	579	5	13	394	4
5	399	4	14	184	3
6	398	4	15	650	4
7	183	3	16	410	4
8	460	4	17	375	4
9	460	4	18	474	4
Total yardage: 7,202					
In 3,553 Yds					
Par: 72					

enormous lunch." He can afford one now, as victory was worth £66,660 and Torrance virtually doubled his earnings for the season with a cheque for £44,400.

Feherty was entitled to feel disappointed at not being involved in the play-off. He admitted that when he set out eight shots behind James, he could hardly have expected to

reduce such a deficit. He came within one shot of doing so with a wonderful inward half of 32 which included a putt of six feet for a birdie at the 15th and one of a similar distance for an eagle at the 17th. Ballesteros made only one birdie with a putt of three feet for a two at the 7th. The round was a reflection of his season as he squandered one opportunity after another on the greens. He missed from six feet at the 10th, which would have given him a two-shot lead, and he took three putts from 12 feet at the 14th. For some inexplicable reason, the magic has deserted those golden hands.

Derrick Cooper made nonsense of his form of earlier this year when, with four birdies

and an eagle, he finished with a 67 for a level-par score of 288. It gave Cooper a share of fifth place with Howard Clark (70), Mike Harwood (72), of Australia, and Stephen McAllister, whose six birdies in a 68 continued a fine season in which he has won in Portugal and Holland.

Sandy Lyle flattered only to deceive by starting his final round with two birdies. He finished with a 73 for a total of 292. Vijay Singh, of Fiji, increased his lead in the Equity and Law Challenge with four birdies to take his points total for the season to 333 and a lead of 29 over Richard Boxall.

European Seniors
Tour, page 31

FINAL SCORES

(108 and 104 under par)

284: M James, 78, 68, 65, 75; S Torrance, 75, 67, 69, 73 (James won at first extra hole); 285: D Feherty, 73, 75, 69, 68, 287: S Ballesteros, 69, 72, 72, 68, 75; 288: D Cooper, 77, 75, 71, 57; S McAllister, 74, 74, 72, 68; H Clark, 76, 73, 69, 70; M Harwood (Aus), 74, 76, 69, 72; 289: G Brand, 71, 75, 72, 71; S Richardson, 71, 76, 67, 75; 290: S Stephens, 71, 74, 75, 70; P McIlhinney (Aus), 74, 74, 76, 72; 291: R Cleynen, 78, 72, 75, 75; B Ogle (Aus), 74, 69, 75; V Singh (Fiji), 77, 72, 67, 75.

75, 67, 78, 287: D Williams, 76, 75, 72, 74; R Davis (Aus), 78, 72, 73, 74; B Lane, 78, 72, 75, 74; P Cury, 77, 72, 74, 76; E Walters, 72, 77, 72, 76; S Barnes, 77, 74, 73, 75; J Davis (Ips), 75, 75, 74, 75; R Chapman, 75, 76, 75, 72; W Hiley (Aus), 75, 76, 74, 71; P Hoad, 76, 76, 75, 73; 291: T Charney, 75, 76, 72, 78; B Gellacher, 76, 74, 78, 75.

289: D Russell, 73, 73, 76, 76; J van de Walle (Bel), 73, 72, 72, 77; M McGee, 74, 75, 72, 73; 292: P Watson, 75, 77, 75, 72; S Makley (US), 74, 78, 70, 75; 293: A Chivers, 75, 77, 71, 77; S Bannerman, 75, 76, 75, 74; P Hoad, 76, 76, 75, 73; 291: T Charney, 75, 76, 72, 78; B Gellacher, 76, 74, 78, 75.

290: M Mandford, 75, 72, 77, 74, 292: S Greggs (Ips), 76, 74, 75, 75; D Ray, 77, 75, 78, 75; M Miller, 80, 70, 78, 74.

304: W Stephens, 78, 74, 76, 76; K Dickens, 78, 74, 75, 75; 305: A Forsberg, 74, 75, 78, 77; 306: A Jones, 77, 75, 75, 81; R McFarlane, 77, 70, 80, 77; 70, 78, 80; P Tervahauta (US), 75, 77, 75, 78; 80; S Smith (US), 77, 79, 78, 75; 308: K Brown, 78, 74, 78, 81; R Lee, 74, 77, 80, 80; D R Jones, 77, 75, 80, 77; 310: D Jones, 75, 75, 75, 80; J Gerrard (Sp), 78, 74, 78, 78; R Rafter, 76, 75.

GRE Cup, page 35

Title can still be won by any of three sides

By IVO TENNANT

DERBY (Middlesex won toss):
No result. Derbyshire (2pts)
Middlesex (2pts)

THIS was about as farcical as a cricket match can become. After much heavy rain, a 14-over-a-side contest was convened in conditions barely fit even for such primitive jousting. It continued beyond a baffling 20-minute tea interval until abandoned with 4.4 overs remaining.

The upshot is that the winners of the Refuge Assurance League will not be determined until next weekend. One of the counties can win it, Derbyshire, who lead the table by two points and play Essex — against whom they have had scant success down the years, Lancashire or Middlesex.

Had the tea interval yesterday been reduced to ten minutes, the statutory time for a change of innings, the match would probably have been concluded. At that stage, it was not raining. The umpires, Chris Balderstone and Peter Wright, made it clear afterwards that they had to stick to the regulations, inclement weather or not.

When the abandonment was made, Middlesex were batting as freely as the wintry conditions allowed. It had reached the point that the bowlers and the fielders were having difficulty maintaining their footing. Needing 129 to win, Middlesex had begun sketchily, losing Roseberry to the second ball of the innings and getting in the following over, but some bold shots from Haynes and Ramprakash ensured they were as one with the asking rate.

This was more than nine runs an over. It was raining, as well as murky, for much of the time Haynes and Ramprakash were together, but that could hardly have been gleaned from the way they batted. Twice Ramprakash drove straight sixes. They took 15 off Kuiper's first over and were punishing Base when, with four balls of his initial over remaining, the rain finally became too heavy to continue.

There was little that was stylish about the rest of the batting — the regulations dictated that — but there were a couple of shots by Morris worthy of mention. In a

Refuge Assurance league table

County	P	W	L	T	N	Pts
Derbyshire (5)	15	11	3	0	1	46
Lancashire (1)	15	10	4	0	2	42
Nottingham (1)	15	10	4	0	1	42
Hampshire (6)	15	9	4	0	2	40
Derby (2)	15	9	4	0	1	40
Yorkshire (11)	15	8	6	0	1	34
Gloucestershire (16)	15	7	8	0	2	30
Somerset (10)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Essex (2)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Worcestershire (2)	15	6	8	0	1	26
Sussex (13)	15	6	8	0	2	24
Northamptonshire (14)	15	6	8	0	1	22
Gloucestershire (17)	15	4	10	0	1	18
Leicestershire (18)	15	3	12	0	1	14
Northants (2)	15	2	12	0	1	10

1989 positions in brackets

partnership of 71 for Derbyshire's second wicket with Bowler, he swept Embury to the square-leg boundary and then made room with alacrity to drive him over extra cover. In making 48 from 27 balls, he failed to score off only two of them.

Bowler made his fifth Sunday league half-century of the season through a mixture of clean hitting and grotesque swipes. He struck four fours in an innings which lasted 42 balls. None of the Middlesex bowlers was economical, each going for six an over or more. Cowans, who bowled the first and the penultimate overs of the innings, one from each end, was on a hiding to nothing.

There were some powerful strokes at the end of the innings by Kuiper, including one six picked up over square leg off Cowans and another shot against Embury which began as a reverse sweep and finished as a more authentic version which still went for four.

Derbyshire

K J Barnett c Embury b Williams 50

P D Bowler c Fraser 50

J E Morris c Roseberry b Cowans 48

S J Vautier b Embury 18

C J Adams run out 9

T J G O'Gorman not out 0

Extras (b, s, w, lb) 11

Total (5 wickets, 14 overs) 128

B R Roberts, A E Warner, S J Base, D E

Malcolm and D H Mortimer did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-100, 3-116, 4-128, 5-128.

BOWLING: Cowans 2-0-25-1; Williams 3-

0-24-0-1; Embury 3-0-1-16; 4-1-16-4;

5-0-1-1; Fraser 3-0-24-1.

MIDDLESEX

D L Haynes not out 48

M A Ramprakash c Bowler b Warner 40

M W Gattling run out 7

M A Roseberry not out 7

Extras (b, s, w, lb) 2

Total (2 wickets, 8.2 overs) 85

K R Brown, P R Downard, J E Embury,

M A Roseberry, S J Base, A R C Fraser

and W G Cowans did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10.

BOWLING: Warner 3-0-25-1; Mortimer 3-

0-24-0-1; Embury 3-0-1-16; 4-1-16-4;

5-0-1-1; Fraser 3-0-24-1.

Unspins: J C Balderstone and P B Wright.

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Robson given new role as a sweeper

BRYAN Robson's future role in the Manchester United team is as a sweeper. Alex Ferguson, the manager, believes, Ferguson plans to convert the England football captain to a back-four role permanently, in a new three-man central defensive formation at Old Trafford.

Robson, aged 33, who is recovering from the Achilles tendon operation that forced his early return from the World Cup finals in Italy, is likely to miss the start of the season. Ferguson estimates that he needs another two weeks before he is fully fit.

Robson will play in a private practice game against Chester City at Macclesfield tomorrow. "Bryan is coming along well and our worst worries are over," Ferguson said.

"He needs games though, and I have in mind having him back when we play at Sunderland on Saturday week. But he could surprise us for our second midweek match at Leeds because he has tremendous in-built fitness. At least there is now an end in sight."

When Robson does return, it will be to a sweeper's role, one he has occasionally filled in the past. "I decided on the new formation even before the World Cup started," Ferguson said. "I had a chat with Robbo; I wanted to retain him

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Everton expecting to complete Milligan deal

MIKE Milligan, the Oldham Athletic midfielder, is finally expected to sign for Everton this week in a £900,000 deal (Ian Ross writes).

Milligan has been on the verge of joining the Merseyside club for three weeks but his transfer was placed on ice until Joe Royle, the Oldham manager, had secured a suitable replacement. That was achieved on Friday when Royle paid Nottingham Forest £450,000 for David Currie, the former Barnsley player.

Tony Cottee, Everton's England international forward, may well miss the start of the season after spending a week in hospital suffering from a viral complaint. Cottee was admitted to Southport Infirmary last weekend after complaining of a high temperature and severe stomach pains and was only discharged on Friday after a series of exhaustive tests.

"We shall have a look at

Cram has a change of heart

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

STEVE Cram, who said on Friday that he was in need of more races than time would allow before the European athletics championships, has changed his mind and will not compete again until the heats of the 1500 metres in Split in tendays' time. He will therefore begin his defence of the title he has held for the last eight years without a convincing performance to his name all summer.

"I have decided that it would be more beneficial if I stayed in the surroundings with which I am familiar, rather than risk tiring myself with any extra unnecessary travel," Cram, who was to have raced in Rovereto, Italy, tomorrow, said yesterday.

When he went to Italy last week to race, he spent four-and-a-half hours on a crowded bus between Rome and Grosseto. With the short time between now and Split, he cannot afford to be tired from travelling.

After taking a day to reflect on his defeat by two teenagers

over 1,000 metres in the Pearl Assurance meeting at Gateshead on Friday evening, Cram concluded that a week's training at home on Tyneside would yield more than an 800 metres race in Rovereto.

"I need five more races," Cram, the mile world record holder, had said immediately after his defeat by Jonah Birir, a Kenyan aged 18, and Paul Burgess, aged 19, from Wigan. He will do without them, though, in the hope that his training partner, David Sharpe, who will run the 800 metres in Split, can help bring

No break for Belsham

Matthew Belsham, one of Britain's top pole vault prospects, did not suffer a broken leg after an accident during competition in Gateshead after all.

The Sale Harrier, aged 18, was first reported by British officials to have fractured his right leg after missing the landing mat while vaulting in the Pearl Assurance International on Friday.

But after hospital tests in

him on.

While Peter Elliott's victory in the Emsley Carr Mile at Gateshead gave him his twentieth track success of the year, Cram has just two: at the Northern championships, and against an insignificant field in Grosseto. His problems have been various, missing races because of an Achilles tendon injury, gastro-enteritis and, on one occasion, the ill health of his daughter.

His time of 3min 35.98sec in Grosseto is the only shred of evidence that, even if he

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cannot win, he may have a chance of a medal. After that run, he said: "I need more training and more racing, and it's a juggling act trying to get it right."

He will take all the time he can to use his home base for training, leaving for Split two days after the British team. Elliott, though, is to stick to his plan to run the 1500 metres in Rovereto. Jens-Peter Herold, of East Germany, and José-Luis Gonzalez, of Spain, appear to be more of a threat than Cram to Elliott's European title chances.

If Cram, aged 29, is beginning to feel age catching up with him, the selection at the weekend of Diane Smith for the British squad will have done nothing to help. Smith is half Cram's age. At 15, she has been chosen as reserve for the relay. Earlier this month she showed outstanding potential by winning the world junior 200 metres title, in Plovdiv, against athletes up to three years older.

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Ramsamy gives South Africa support

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SOUTH Africa could be on the brink of being handed an unexpected invitation to the 1996 Olympic Games. It would come courtesy of the most unlikely pieces of sporting bridge-building, a report from the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), the body primarily responsible for the country's exile from international sport. Barred from successive Olympics since Rome in 1960 on grounds of its apartheid policy, and shunned from sporting contact with Commonwealth countries in the wake of the 1977 Gleneagles agreement, South Africa has been visited by Sam Ramsamy, the executive chairman of SANROC. He was there to compile a report at the behest of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), whose blessing is required

before any South African return to the Olympics.

Ramsamy's conclusion at the end of a ten-day visit proved remarkably positive. "I am very hopeful that South Africa will now return for 1996," he said. "For the first time I can see a light at the end of the tunnel. There is no reason why South Africa cannot return. It is up to them, but we want them to succeed. It could take as little as 18 months for everything to be right."

It was the first time that Ramsamy had returned to his native country since 1972. But the man who was outraged by Zola Budd's arrival in England and at the forefront of opposition to Mike Gatting's unofficial cricket tour of South Africa, was pleasantly surprised by his findings. "The signs really are good," he said. "Things are changing and they are for the better. The

main prerequisite for us is that many black and white governing bodies of various sports should unite into one body for one sport."

"I met with these bodies and found that without exception, all want unity. I sound optimistic because I was so well accepted by everyone and they are all looking at the future of South African sport."

"Moves towards unity have already begun in the major sports like rugby, football and cricket, and plans are being drawn up in athletics."

ANOCA will debate the content of Ramsamy's report at the International Conference against Apartheid in Sport in Stockholm on September 4, and then at a further meeting with representatives of South African sporting bodies in Harare on November 4. If ANOCA endorses Ramsamy's message it

will notify the International Olympic Committee (IOC), that it has no objections to a South African return.

The IOC is the body ultimately responsible for South Africa's expulsion, but there are indications that it would be happy to revoke the order. Dick Pound, the vice-president of the IOC, and a Canadian, said: "We were the first to take action against them, and we want to be the first to bring them back. It is a human problem, but particularly an African problem. We would not alter the status quo without African consultation, and African approval would carry and awful lot of weight."

The venue for the centenary Games in 1996 has yet to be determined. Whether it will welcome the presence of South Africa on the guest list remains open to question.

Unification threatens East German athletics

DRESDEN (Reuters) — East Germany's training scheme for young athletes, once the envy of the world, has collapsed, casting grave doubts over the future of the sport there.

Hundreds of trainers are being made redundant as the repercussions of unification with West Germany are felt, and the 14 special sports schools lose their state funding at the end of the year.

Heinz Kadow, the general secretary of East Germany's athletics federation, said yesterday at the final East German championships here: "It is difficult to calculate, but I am sure there are thousands of children who had been selected who are now going to be

lost to us. The ten to 13 age group has virtually fallen apart. Their trainers and group leaders are gone and the training centres have few pupils."

"I'm worried about the gap which will appear before we can stabilise the situation," he said. "If you ask me, there will be a hole and we are doing our best to keep it as small as possible."

Kadow did not want to give the impression that he was ungrateful to the West German federation, which had guaranteed employment for 50 of the 592 East German trainers.

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